NATION

Wangchuk warns of hunger strike from 15 Aug

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BUSINESS

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SPORTS

SL beat India by 8 wickets to lift women's Asia Cup

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Child marriage ban applies to all, religion no bar: HC

HC urges society to let children study, travel & enjoy life

KOCHI, 28 JULY

Kerala High Court has ruled that Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 is applicable to every citizen of this country irrespective of his or her religion as every Indian is a citizen first and then becomes a member of a religion.

Justice PV Kunhikrishnan in a recent order on a petition to quash a case registered in 2012 in Palakkad against a child marriage, said irrespective of religion, whether a person is Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi etc., the Act is applicable to all.

The petitioners, including the father of the then minor girl, contended before the court that being a Muslim she enjoys the religious right to marry after attaining puberty, i.e., at the age of 15.

"A person should be a citizen of India first, and thereafter only his religion comes. Religion is secondary and citizenship should come first. Therefore, I am of the considered opinion that, irrespective of religion, whether a person is Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi etc., Act 2006 is applicable to all," the court said in its 15 July order.

Court said child brides are more vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

"Child marriage often forces girls to drop out of school, limiting their education and future opportunities. Child brides are more vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse. Child marriage can perpetuate poverty and limit economic opportunities for individuals and communities.

An Integrated Child Development Scheme Officer (ICDS Officer) had lodged a complaint to the Vadakkencherry police about a child marriage that took place on 30 December, 2012.

High Court urged the society to let the children study, travel and enjoy their life according to their wishes and when they attained maturity, let them decide about their marriage.

It also suggested that the print and the visual media can play a significant role in raising awareness and prohibiting child marriages.

The court also noted that the complaint against the child marriage was filed by a person from the Muslim community itself. —*PTI*

INDIA'S 1ST MEDAL

Manu Bhaker during the medal ceremony for the 10m Air Pistol Women Shooting competition in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games **PHOTO: PTI**

Bhaker breaks jinx, bags Olympics Bronze in shooting

PARIS, 28 JULY

A resilient Manu Bhaker ended India's 12-year wait for a shooting medal in the Olympics by becoming the first markswoman from the country to finish on the podium with a bronze in the 10m air pistol event of the Paris Games here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Bhaker, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, fought hard to get the bronze with a score of 221.7. The 22-year-old Bhaker's relentless dedication, hard work, and passion have truly paid off, said India's first individual Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra.

"A historic medal! for winning India's FIRST medal at Paris Olympics 2024! Congrats for the Bronze. This success is even more special as she becomes the 1st woman to win a medal in shooting for India. An incredible achievement!" Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Indian shooter Arjun Babuta secured a spot in the 10m air rifle final of the Olympic Games after finishing seventh in the qualification round.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen powered into the women's 50kg Olympics pre-quarterfinals with a tenacious victory over Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer here on Sunday. Trailing on three cards after the first round, the 28-year-old Indian prevailed by a 5-0 margin against the German in a rather messy round of 32 contest at the North Paris Arena here.

Two-time Olympic medallist Indian shuttler PV Sindhu began her Paris Olympics campaign with a resounding straight game win over Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq.

In rowing Balraj Panwar progressed to the quarterfinals of the men's single sculls the competition after finishing second in Repechage 2.

However, India's swimming campaign at the Paris Olympics came to an end as both Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu from Karnataka failing to progress to the semifinals of their respective events. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Inmate makes call from jail, threatens to kill Rajasthan CM

JAIPUR, 28 JULY

A prisoner from Dausa jail allegedly made a call to the police control room and threatened to kill Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, an officer said on Sunday. Inspector General of Police (Jaipur Range) Anil Tank said the call was made by a prisoner jailed in a rape case had called Jaipur Police Control Room late Saturday night. He said police traced the location of the phone number to Dausa Jail and took the inmate into custody for questioning. He said they are investigating how the prisoner got access to mobile phone. —*PTI*

Lakshman appointed Assam Guv; Kataria replaces Purohit in Punjab

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Lakshman Prasad Acharya has been made the governor of Assam with the additional charge of Manipur while Gulab Chand Kataria has replaced Banwarilal Purohit as the governor of Punjab under major gubernatorial appointments announced on Saturday night.

Acharya has replaced Kataria, who has also been appointed the administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, according to a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Purohit as the governor of Punjab and the administrator of Chandigarh, it said.

Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been appointed as the governor of Maharashtra, it said. Santosh Kumar Gangwar will be new Jharkhand governor in place of Radhakrishnan.

Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde has been appointed as the governor of Rajasthan, Jishnu Dev Varma will be the Telangana governor and Om Prakash Mathur will be the new governor of Sikkim, the statement said.

Ramen Deka has been appointed as the governor of Chhattisgarh and CH Vijayashankar the governor of Meghalaya, the communique said.

The President of India is pleased to appoint K Kailashnathan as the Lt Governor of Puducherry with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office, it said. These appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices, the statement added. —*PTI*

A student raises slogans during a protest outside Rau's IAS Study Circle in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

FIR FILED IN DELHI COACHING CENTRE FLOODING

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The Delhi Police has registered an FIR and formed multiple teams to probe the Rajinder Nagar coaching centre flooding incident which killed three IAS aspirants, officials said on Sunday. The police have arrested the owner and the coordinator of the Rau's IAS Study Circle and booked them for culpable homicide and other charges. Multiple teams have been formed to investigate the entire incident. The deceased were Shreya Yadav, 25, of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni, 25, from Telangana and Nevin Delvin, 24, from Ernakulam in Kerala, police said. Meanwhile, a few students were detained after they staged a protest in Old Rajinder Nagar here on Sunday, demanding action against those responsible for the deaths of three civil services aspirants at a coaching centre in the area, and compensation for families. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

EAM holds talks with US Secy Blinken

TOKYO, 28 JULY

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday held "wide-ranging" talks with his American counterpart Antony Blinken against the backdrop of an unease in India-US ties following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia three weeks back.

Both Jaishankar and Blinken are in Tokyo to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of four-nation grouping Quad or Quadrilateral coalition.

It is not immediately clear whether Prime Minister Modi's visit to Russia and the murder-for-hire plot figured in the Jaishankar-Blinken talks.

Global icon Mahatma Gandhi's timeless message of peace and non-violence is even more relevant today when the world is witnessing conflicts, polarisation and bloodshed, he said.

Jaishankar's remarks came as he unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Freedom Plaza in Tokyo. —*PTI*

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a meeting in Edogawa, Tokyo, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

PHOTO: PTI

36 killed, 162 injured as 2 tribes clash in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 28 JULY

At least 36 people were killed and 162 others injured in five days in armed clashes between two tribes fighting over a piece of land in Pakistan's restive tribal district in northwest, officials said on Sunday. Officials said that heavy clashes started five days ago in Boshera village in Upper Kurram district, which has witnessed deadly conflicts among tribes and religious groups as well as sectarian clashes and militant attacks in the past. Officials with the help of tribal elders, military leadership, police and district administration have brokered a truce between Shia and Sunni tribes in Boshera, Malikhel and Dandar areas a short while ago, police said. However, firing is still continuing in some other parts of the district. An official said efforts were being made to reach a ceasefire in the remaining areas too. Clashes broke out between the two tribes over a land dispute four days ago. The clashes spread to other areas, including Peewar, Tangi, Balishkhel, Khaar Kalay, Maqbal, Kunj Alizai, Para Chamkani and Karman. They said that mortar and rocket shells were also fired on Parachinar and Sadda, the main cities in the Kurram tribal district. —*PTI*

NTA announces CUET-UG results

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced the results for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG, paving the way to begin the undergraduate admission process which has been delayed this year.

NTA had on 7 July released the provisional answer keys of the CUET-UG 2024. A retest for more than 1,000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted on 19 July.

The delay in the CUET-UG results came amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including in the NEET-UG and the UGC-NET.

Initially, the CUET-UG results were scheduled to be declared on 30 June, but the NTA delayed it, as it was grappling with allegations of paper leak allegations in the NEET-UG, UGC-NET and the CSIR-UGC-NET exams.

The CUET-UG conducted in a hybrid mode for the first time across the country was cancelled in Delhi a night before the scheduled exam day over "logistical reasons".

For 15 subjects, the tests were in pen-paper mode and for the other 48 subjects, the exam was held in CBT mode. Over 13.4 lakh candidates registered for the test for admission to undergraduate courses in 261 central, state, deemed and private universities this year. —*PTI*

HDK HOSPITALISED AFTER NOSEBLEED AMID PRESS CONFERENCE IN B'LURU

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy was taken to hospital after his nose started bleeding while he was attending a press conference in the City on Sunday. Kumarswamy was seen trying to block his nostrils with a piece of cloth. His shirt was drenched in blood when he was at the press conference.

A meeting of BJP-JDS leaders under the leadership of state BJP President BY Vijayendra, Kumarswamy and State Leader of Opposition R Ashoka was held. After the meeting, Vijayendra said that the leaders met to discuss the reason behind the corruption taking place in Karnataka including Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. —*ANI*

HD Kumaraswamy covers his nose during a press conference, in Bengaluru, on Sunday **PHOTO:SALAR**

SAYS NITI AAYOG

'India needs to strive to be $30T economy'

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

India needs to strive to be a USD 30 trillion economy with a per capita income of USD 18,000 per annum by 2047, the approach paper for vision for Vikshit Bharat in 2047 has said.

NITI Aayog in a paper titled 'Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047:An Approach Paper' said India needs to avoid the Middle-Income trap and carefully work towards breaking out of it.

"As for the economy, to become a developed nation, we need to strive to be a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047 with a per capita income of USD 18,000 per annum.

"The GDP would have to grow nine times from today's USD 3.36 trillion and the per capita income would need to rise 8 times from today's USD 2,392 per annum," it said.

The paper also noted that progressing from a middle-income to a high-income level requires sustained growth in the range of 7-10 per cent for 20-30 years and very few countries have managed to do this. Defining the concept of Vikshit Bharat, the paper said it is a Bharat which will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today.

World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than USD 14,005 (in 2023). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by the centenary of its independence in 2047.

This document was discussed during NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the document, India is at a turning point in its history and the 21st century can be India's century, as the country pole-vaults into the future confident of its capabilities. —*PTI*

It also needs per capita income of USD 18,000 per annum **PHOTO: PTI**

FM hits out at Cong for high inflation, Valmiki scam

Sitharaman says State's economy worsened due to price hikes

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said that high inflation and poor law and order in Karnataka are the contributions of Congress government.

Responding to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that injustice was meted out to the State by the Centre, Sitharaman said the State's economy worsened mainly due to the hike in prices of fuel, milk and stamp duty as well as poor expenditure.

"The contribution of the State government is high inflation, much higher than the national average. And how I am saying that? Inflation between June 2023 and June 2024 the national average was 5.4 per cent. Karnataka is at 6.1 per cent," Sitharaman, who is a Rajya Sabha member from

PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Karnataka, told reporters here.

Drawing a contrast between BJP's rule in the state and present Congress dispensation, the Minister said between June 2022 and May 2023, Karnataka's inflation was lower than the national average.

While, national average from June 2022 to May 2023 was six

- Sitharaman also lashed out at Siddaramaiah asking him whether it was 'Nyay' (justice) to siphon off money belonging to the tribal Valmiki community

per cent, Karnataka kept its inflation rate at 5.39 per cent, Sitharaman pointed out.

Is it 'Nyay' to siphon of SC/ST money in Valmiki scam?

Meanwhile, Sitharaman also lashed out at Siddaramaiah asking him whether it was 'Nyay' (justice) to siphon off money belonging to the tribal Valmiki community.

Referring to the Rs 187 crore scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Corporation including the illegal transfer of Rs 88 crore, Sitharaman accused Siddaramaiah of concealing facts and trying to pass the blame on to the central government because bank officials of a nationalised bank were involved.

On Siddaramaiah's charge that the Union Finance Minister should be held accountable because banks were involved, Sitharaman said, "He can say that because he is used to talking like this... That's so irresponsive. You have your minister resigned. You have your people saying that the money has been siphoned into private accounts." The minister said that action has already been taken as a first step against the conniving bank officials and further action will be taken against them. "No protection will be offered to them for sure." *—PTI*

5 contenders eye K'taka Mahila Cong President's post

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

The race for Karnataka Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee President's post has attracted five aspirants. The incumbent will be chosen following a one-on-one interview by Alka Lamba, the All India Chief of Congress Women's Wing.

According to sources speaking to **Salar News**, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President DK Shivakumar has submitted a list of names for consideration. The list includes former MLA Sowmya Reddy, as well as party functionaries Kavitha Reddy, Kamalakshi Rajanna, Matilda D'Souza, and Krupa Alva.

While party spokesperson Aishwarya Manchanahalli Mahadev's name was also proposed, she is reportedly not keen on taking up the post.

The present President B Pushpa Amarnath's five-year term, which started in 2018 has come to an end. She had previously sought an extension in light of the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. Lamba is set to meet the aspirants individually in New Delhi on Monday, following the protests organised by the Congress women's wing for the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023.

Sowmya Reddy and Kavitha Reddy

PHOTO: X/LINKEDIN

When contacted, Sowmya Reddy told **Salar News** that she was in New Delhi for the protest and that the party high command would make the decision.

Kavitha Reddy, who has previously missed out on various opportunities, including the MLC seat, emphasised her 15 years of commitment to the party and expressed optimism based on her merit and seniority.

"If merit and seniority are taken into account, I stand a fair chance as I have given 15 years of my time to the party. If caste quota and being a child of a party leader is taken as the yardstick, nothing can be done," she told **Salar News**.

Notably, Amarnath is from a Scheduled Caste, and so is Rajanna. Kavitha and Sowmya belong to the Reddy Vokkaliga community; while Alva is a Bunt and D'Souza is Christian. Sources have indicated that the post has been held by individuals from the Christian, Muslim, OBC, Vokkaliga, and Lingayat communities, but not from the Reddy Vokkaliga community.

—Salar News

TO HONOUR KARGIL MARTYRS

Over 500 ex-servicemen, women bikers, cops, jeepers participated in a Bike Jatha to celebrate 25th Kargil Diwas on Sunday, organised by Akhila Karnataka Ex-servicemen Association in Bengaluru. Bikers with Indian flag took out a ride from Manekshaw Parade Grounds to Vijayanagar **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Judges should use a sense of robust common sense in bail petitions: CJI

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said the trial judges prefer playing safe by not granting bail on important issues of crime when it is looked at with a degree of suspicion, on Sunday.

Chandrachud underlined the need for a 'sense of robust common sense' to look at the nitty-gritty of each case.

"People who should be getting bail in the trial courts and not getting it there, as a result of which, they have to invariably move the high courts. People who should be getting bail in the high courts will not

PHOTO: PTI

necessarily get it, as a result of which, they have to move to the Supreme Court. This delay compounds the problem of those who are facing arbitrary arrests," Justice Chandrachud said.He was replying to a question at the end of a keynote address during the '11th Annual Conference of the Berkeley Centre on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination'. The question was on the arbitrary arrests. The questioner said we seem to live in a society

- According to Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, most of the cases should not have come to the Supreme Court at all

where one acts first and seeks forgiveness later. This has become particularly true for public authorities acting in a politically motivated manner by detaining activists, academics, journalists and even politicians, including the chief ministers of Opposition parties, he said. In reply, Justice Chandrachud said Supreme Court has been constantly trying to convey that part of the reason for it is that there is an inherent distrust in the institutions within the country.

According to him, most of the cases should not have come to the Supreme Court at all. *—PTI*

City braces for week-long rains, yellow alert issued

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

The India Meteorological Department has issued a series of weather alerts as monsoon rains continue to impact various regions of the State. A yellow alert has been announced in different regions such as Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Bidar, and Kodagu districts, while an orange alert has been issued for Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada. Coastal Karnataka will continue to see moderate to heavy rains, while the highlands will experience scattered light to moderate showers. Bengaluru is set to experience mostly cloudy skies and light to moderate rainfall over the next 48 hours.
—Salar News

TN dams fill up fast after heavy inflow from Karnataka

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

With the Mettur Dam in Salem filling up fast following heavy inflows from Karnataka, the Tamil Nadu government on Sunday directed the release of water from the reservoir to cater to the Cauvery delta districts in the State. Chief Minister MK Stalin chaired a meeting attended by Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan, among others, and top officials here to review the situation. Heavy rains in the Cauvery's catchment areas led Karnataka to release 1.48 lakh cusecs of excess water, raising Mettur Dam's water level to 109.20 ft, according to an official release. The full reservoir level is 120 ft. The quantum of water released by Karnataka is expected to continue for the next three days. After the meeting, the chief minister directed the release of water from Mettur Dam 3 pm onwards on Sunday to irrigate the short-term standing 'kuruvai' crops, which would also enable people to celebrate the 'Aadiperukku' festival in the coming days with fervour, the release added. Initially, 12,000 cusecs of water will be released from the reservoir, which acts as a lifeline for the Cauvery delta districts, including Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli, and the quantum would be increased gradually, based on the inflow, it said. **—PTI**

Train services hit after landslides in Mysuru division

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

A severe landslide that took place on 26 July between Edakumeri and Kadagaralli in the Mysuru Division has led to the cancellation of multiple trains. Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer of South Western Railway (SWR) said the heavy downpour has hindered the restoration operations. The landslide, triggered by heavy rains, has damaged the railway track leading to a halt in train operations for the next few days.

"Despite our round-the-clock efforts, the heavy downpour has hindered the restoration operations. We estimate it will take at least five days to restore normalcy," he said.

Railway officials have attributed the landslide to the softening of the hillside soil. According to the officials, the soil has slid about 50-60 meters to the side of the railway track. "The landslide has caused the soil to slide to a great depth,

posing a significant risk to the track," said Kanamadi.

He said that due to the unstable tracks, rocks, and other materials, they are being carefully transported with engines positioned both in front and behind the wagons.

"We are taking every precaution to ensure the stability of the tracks and the safety of our workers. Passengers should expect delays and cancellations," added Kanamadi.

According to the SWR bulletin, several trains have been cancelled from 29 July to 4 August.

—Salar News

AFFECTED TRAINS ARE:

- 16511 KSR Bengaluru to Kannur (29 July to 3 August)
- 16512 Kannur to KSR Bengaluru (30 July to 4 August)
- 16595 KSR Bengaluru to Karwar (29 July to 3 August).
- 16596 Karwar to KSR Bengaluru (30 July to 4 August).
- 16585 SMVT Bengaluru to Murdeshwar (29 July to 3 August)
- 16586 Murdeshwar to SMVT Bengaluru (30 July to 4 August)
- 07377 Vijayapura to Mangaluru Central (29 July to 3 August)
- 07378 Mangaluru Central to Vijayapura (30 July to 4 August
- 16515 Yesvantpur to Karwar (29, 31 July and 2 August)
- 16516 Karwar to Yesvantpur (30 July, 1 and 3 August)
- 16575 Yesvantpur to Mangaluru Jn (30 July and 1 August)
- 16576 Mangaluru Jn to Yesvantpur (31 July and 2 August)
- 16539 Yesvantpur to Mangaluru Jn (3 August)
- 16540 Mangaluru Jn to Yesvantpur (4 August)

*Passengers are advised to check SWR website and social media for the latest updates

DyCM urges ministers to aid flood-affected regions

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President DK Shivakumar called on his Cabinet ministers to visit areas affected by recent floods and oversee relief efforts. He emphasised need for his colleagues to be present in the flood-hit regions to address the issues faced by the people. His appeal highlights government's commitment addressing challenges. *—Salar News*

Pinarayi requests CM to continue search for missing lorry driver

T'PURAM, 28 JULY

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday wrote to his counterpart in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, requesting that his government continue the rescue operations to find Arjun, the lorry driv-er from Kozhikode who went missing in a land-slide at Shirur there recently. Vijayan also requested that operations be continued with augmented strength and use all equipment. *—PTI*

Cong protest against Minister HD Kumaraswamy for for his alleged involvement in MUDA scam, in Bengaluru, on Sunday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

BJP-JD(S) to hold 7-day protest against scams

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

In order to mount pressure on the ruling Congress against the scams in the State, the BJP and its ally JD(S) will hold a march from Bengaluru to Mysuru on 3 August and conclude on 10 August.

The weeklong march has been planned to highlight the scams that have taken place in the State, such as the misappropriation of Rs 187 crore of the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation and another scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Corporation, BJP state President BY Vijayendra told reporters.

The BJP and the JD(S) leaders, led by former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, Union Ministers HD Kumaraswamy and Pralhad Joshi, and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly R Ashoka took part in the meeting to chalk out a strategy, he added.

"Our march from Bengaluru will start from August 3. It will require a week to complete the march. It will conclude on August 10," Vijayendra said. Yediyurappa and Kumaraswamy will kickstart the march, while central BJP leaders will take part in the concluding ceremony, Vijayendra said. *—PTI*

Cauvery protesters from Tamil Nadu detained in MP

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

As many as 65 people, mostly farmers from Tamil Nadu, travelling to Delhi to stage a protest over the Cauvery water dispute were deboarded from GT Express train at Narmadapuram station in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday and detained, an official said.

The detainees include farmer leader P Ayyakannu and 12 women.

National South Indian River Interlinking Farmers' Association's Tamil Nadu unit president P Ayyakannu, who was also detained, told reporters at Narmadapuram station that 100 tickets were purchased for travelling to Delhi from Tamil Nadu.

When asked how long the protesters would be detained, Singh said police the Association president and others would decide if they wanted to go back and how.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka see periodic protests over the decades-old Cauvery water dispute with farmers demanding a "fair share" of the river water.

Fresh demonstrations were held last September after the Supreme Court refused to interfere with the order of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the CWRC directing the Karnataka government to release 5,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

Farmers from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had taken to the streets, demanding the resolution of the Cauvery water-sharing issue.

—PTI

A SEVERE CONCERN

Foul smell, dry taps haunt Banaswadi rly stn

BENGALURU, 28 JULY

Despite serving over 200 passengers on a daily basis, the Banaswadi Railway Station in Bengaluru's Eastern suburbs is grappling with severe infrastructure deficiencies such as lack of drinking water facility, unhygienic conditions and inadequate security.

The railway station, which sees more than 20 trains including the Kochuveli-Banaswadi-Kochuveli Humsafar Bi-weekly Express, Hubballi weekly SF Express and Garib Rath Express, has two platforms littered with waste, broken seats, and overgrown vegetation

Speaking to **Salar News,** Ajith Menon a regular commuter, said it's unacceptable for a growing neighbourhood such as Banaswadi to have a neglected railway facility. "Drinking water facilities are non-existent as the two water ports are broken and people have turned them into waste bins," he said.

A social worker Ravi Jayaram, a resident of Vivekananda Nagar adjoining the railway station, said that the only toilet at the station remains locked, forcing passengers to relieve themselves in bushes nearby. He suggested the station authorities prioritise cleanliness and ensure the toilets are functional.

An interior designer from Hutchins Road, Gautham Ramakrishnan opined that the railways should ensure the presence of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel in the railway station as the area is known for robbery and the anti-social elements such as smoking, loitering by local youths, and the presence of drunkards.

Ratan Singh, a fabricator and a resident of Jaibharathinagar said, "The railway station is in a pathetic condition. It is time the Railways top brass visits and checks for themselves on the security issues and the passenger safety being compromised".

Meanwhile, former corporator Rajendra said the station deserves better and has potential to serve the community efficiently.

South Western Railway authorities were not available for comment on the issue when contacted.

—Salar News

PHOTO: SALAR NEWS

3 more held in Armstrong murder case

CHENNAI, 28 JULY

Three more people have been arrested in connection with BSP leader K Armstrong's killing, police said on Sunday. The arrested were 21-year-old N Vijayakumar, V Mukilan, 32, and N Vignesh, 27, years, police said. They were produced before a local court on Sunday and remanded to 15 days custody. The latest arrest takes the number of persons under police custody in the high-profile murder case to 20. K Thiruvengadam, an accused was shot dead here on 14 July by police. Following his arrest, Thiruvengadam was taken to a spot in the city, as part of the investigation to recover weapons. A key accused in the case, he allegedly opened fire at police personnel and attempted to flee from their custody. Police had said that in an act of self-defence they fired at him and he was dead. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Prashant Kishor confirms launch of party on 2 October

PATNA, 28 JULY

Former election strategist Prashant Kishor on Sunday said his Jan Suraaj campaign will become a political party on 2 October, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, and contest the assembly polls in Bihar next year. Kishor was addressing a state-level workshop of Jan Suraaj here, which was attended by several persons, including granddaughter of former Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur. "As stated earlier, Jan Suraaj will become a political party on 2 October and contest next year's assembly polls. Details, such as party leadership, will be decided in due course," said Kishor. He welcomed entry of Jagriti Thakur, daughter of Virendra Nath Thakur, younger son of the Bharat Ratna awardee socialist leader. *—PTI*

BJP worker shot at over land dispute in UP's Sambhal

SAMBHAL, 28 JULY

A BJP worker has been allegedly shot at and injured in Chandausi area of the district, with police saying the incident seems to be a fallout of a land dispute. On Saturday night, police received information about a person who had been shot at and lying injured on Bahjoi Road, Sambhal Superintendent of Police (SP) Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said. The police reached the spot and rushed Prem Pal, 55 from Chandausi to the district hospital from where he was referred to a hospital in Moradabad. According to the Gunawat, Lal, a worker of BJP's local unit, has injury marks on his shoulder because of the bullet shot from behind. Based on Lal's complaint against three people -- Dilip, Shyam Lal and Hemant -- an FIR has been registered. *—PTI*

11 MLCs take oath in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, 28 JULY

Eleven newly-elected legislators took oath as members of Maharashtra legislative council at the Vidhan Bhavan on Sunday. BJP MLCs Pankaja Munde, Parinay Fuke, Yogesh Tilekar, Amit Gorkhe, and Sadabhau Khot, NCP's Rajesh Vitekar and party general secretary Shivajirao Garje, Shiv Sena's Bhavana Gawali and Krupal Tumane, were sworn in. Congress's Pradnya Satav and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Milind Narvekar also took oath at the central hall of the state legislature. MLC Gorkhe said, "During Lok Sabha polls , Opposition attempted to spread false narrative regarding the Constitution. It is my resolve to collaborate with the party to dispel this disinformation." *—PTI*

Ensure execution of schemes: PM to CMs

PM held the meet with 13 CMs and 15 DyCMs

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers and BJP Chief Ministers in New Delhi on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

The Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states made presentations on various development schemes going on in their states as the party's top brass, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held deliberations with them over governance issues for a second consecutive day on Sunday.

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and JP Nadda, who is also the National President of the party, were part of the meeting. Modi has emphasised the need to ensure saturation coverage of welfare schemes going on in BJP-ruled states, saying they should be seen as an example of good governance. He, sources said, noted the efforts of the BJP-run governments to help different sections of society, especially the poor.

The "mukhyamantri parishad" at regular intervals is aimed at reviewing key schemes in states, following the best governance practices and the delivery of central government welfare initiatives. Chief ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Bhajanlal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha) were among the leaders who attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Modi said that Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time and asserted that the rising sales of Khadi and handloom were creating new job opportunities in large numbers.

In Mann Ki Baat monthly radio broadcast, he said many people who would not be using Khadi products earlier now wear them with great pride.

—PTI

Did Biren invite PM to Manipur: Cong

Cong asks Modi if he will ever visit Manipur

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Jairam Ramesh also asked if Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh also met PM Narendra Modi to discuss the situation in the state *PHOTO: PTI*

Reacting to reports about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Ukraine, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh questioned his priorities seeking to know if he would also visit Manipur.

In a post on X, he said, "The simple question that the people of Manipur are asking is this: Did Shri N. Biren Singh meet with Shri Narendra Modi separately one-on-one and discuss the situation in Manipur, which started burning on the night of 3 May, 2023?"

Congress said the people of Manipur are asking whether Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who attended two meetings chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here the day before, also met him one-on-one to discuss the situation in the violence-hit state and invite him there.

"Then the Manipur Chief Minister attends a meeting of BJP Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers presided over by the same deity," he said.

Did Biren Singh invite Modi to visit Manipur, either before or after his trip to Ukraine, Ramesh asked.

Manipur plunged into violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities in May, 2023. Since then some 200 people have been killed and thousands displaced.

Biren Singh, who was here to attend a conference of CMs from BJP-ruled states on Saturday, said he reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to serve the nation by strengthening the party and upholding its core values and ideology.

Singh had also attended the ninth NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting.

—PTI

Nitish skipped NITI Aayog meet out of humiliation: CPI(ML)

PATNA, 28 JULY

The CPI(ML) Liberation, a constituent of the INDIA bloc, has claimed that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar skipped the NITI Aayog meeting out of embarrassment over the Centre's refusal to grant special category status to the state.

The party also slammed the NDA-led central government for "misleading" people over the special package, and announced protest marches next month.

JD(U) leaders, however, were tight-lipped over the absence of Kumar, the party president, at the NITI Aayog meeting held in Delhi on Saturday.

The CM held a party meeting in Patna on Saturday to discuss preparations for assembly polls in neighbouring Jharkhand.

Mehboob Alam, CPI(ML) L leader in the Bihar assembly, said, "I must say that Kumar skipped the meeting out of embarrassment over the refusal of the Centre to grant special category status to Bihar."

> **The insult of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the NITI Aayog meeting was not good for democracy. States have several issues which need to be addressed and muting the microphone of a chief minister doesn't suit democratic norms**
>
> -Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena UBT leader

"He should have attended the crucial meeting... He has once again lost the opportunity to seek special category status for Bihar, and inclusion of the state's amended reservation laws in the ninth schedule of the Constitution," he told PTI.

The ninth schedule includes a list of central and state laws that cannot be challenged in court.

Another CPI(ML) L MLA, Ajeet Kumar Singh, expressed similar views.

"The CM's decision to skip the NITI Aayog meeting shows that he is least bothered about the welfare of the people of Bihar," Singh asserted. *—PTI*

BJP functionary hacked to death in TN

SIVAGANGA, 28 JULY

PHOTO: X/ @ANNAMALAI_K

A senior member of the BJP was hacked to death by a four-member gang, near here, police said on Sunday.

As many as eight special teams have been formed to nab the culprits, a senior police officer said.

The incident occurred on Saturday night when the victim was travelling to his home in M Vilankulam on his motorcycle. After purchasing some products in the local market, he was travelling to his home which is four kilometres away from the spot where the incident occurred. He died on the spot.

After an autopsy at the district government hospital, the body of 52-year-old Selva Kumar, the Cooperative Wing Secretary of the BJP, was handed over to his family, he said.

To a query, the police official said the four accused have been identified and, based on initial investigation and interaction with the family members of the victim, the motive behind the murder has been ascertained to be personal issues.

To another query, he said, "Eight special teams have been formed. We have identified the location of the four accused right now. Very soon, we will secure them into custody."

Meanwhile, reports earlier in the day said that victim's family members and BJP party supporters staged a 'road roko', raising slogans demanding that the police arrest the culprits.

AIADMK worker killed in Puducherry

A 45 year-old AIADMK functionary from neighbouring Tamilnadu was allegedly hacked to death by a five-member gang at Irulanchanthai village in this union territory on Sunday, police sources said.

Padmanaban, the AIADMK functionary from neighbouring Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu was returning home on a motor cycle through Irulanchantahi along with his friend. *—PTI*

Gujarat HC rejects pleas of two ex-BJP ministers in 'fisheries scam'

AHMEDABAD, 28 JULY

Gujarat High Court has rejected the pleas filed by former BJP ministers Parshottam Solanki and Dileep Sanghani seeking their discharge in an alleged Rs 400-crore fisheries scam. The court of Justice Hemant Prachchhak on Friday dismissed the petitions moved by Solanki, Sanghani and one Arjun Suthariya challenging a 12 March, 2021, order of a special Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court rejecting their discharge applications in the case. Earlier, the HC had stayed criminal proceedings against the ex-ministers. *—PTI*

BJP MP introduces bill seeking official status for Bhojpuri

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

BJP MP Ravi Kishan speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament *PHOTO: PTI*

Bhojpuri superstar and BJP MP Ravi Kishan has introduced a private member bill in Lok Sabha to include Bhojpuri in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution so that it can be accorded the status of an official language.

Kishan, who introduced The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024, on Friday, said he wants to underline that the Bhojpuri language is not about crass songs but has a rich cultural history and literature which needs to be promoted.

"So many people speak and understand this language. It is our mother tongue. I wanted to promote this language as a film industry is also being run in this language and lakhs are getting employment. The music industry is also very big," BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur told PTI.

The literature of Bhojpuri needs to be popularised, the actor-cum-politician said. "I want to pay back to my community."

The bill notes that Bhojpuri films are very popular in the country and abroad and have a deep impact on the Hindi film industry. *—PTI*

Cong MP introduces bill for promoting rational thought

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

A private member's bill, seeking to promote rational thought, critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making in society, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha by a Congress MP.

Benny Behanan, MP from Kerala's Chalakudy, on Friday introduced The Promotion of Rational Thought Bill, 2024 which envisages the constitution of a Board -- to be known as the Board for the Promotion of Rational Thought and Critical Thinking -- for the implementing the provisions of the proposed act.

It was India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who promoted rational thought, he said. *—PTI*

Mata Prasad Pandey was the labour and employment minister in Mulayam Singh Yadav's government between 2002 and 2004 *PHOTO: X*

SP's Mata Prasad Pandey is LoP in UP Assembly

LUCKNOW, 28 JULY

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Sunday appointed seven-time MLA Mata Prasad Pandey leader of opposition (LoP) in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly and Manjhanpur legislator Indrajeet Saroj deputy leader of the party in the House.

Pandey,82, MLA from Itwa in Siddharth Nagar district, will replace SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who resigned as MLA from Karhal seat in Mainpuri district after he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kannauj.

At a meeting held earlier at the SP headquarters here, party MLAs had authorised Akhilesh Yadav to choose the LoP. In a statement, SP Chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said, "Akhilesh Yadav appointed Mata Prasad Pandey as leader of opposition in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Indrajit Saroj as deputy leader."

A five-time MLA, Saroj currently represents Kaushambi district's Manjhanpur constituency. SP also appointed Kanth MLA Kamaal Akhtar as chief whip, Raniganj MLA Rakesh Kumar alias R K Verma as deputy whip and Atraulia MLA Sangram Singh Yadav as whip in the assembly, the release said.

Pandey, a Brahmin leader, has held the post of Uttar Pradesh Assembly speaker twice -- 2004-2007 and 2012-2017.

He was first elected as MLA in 1980 and then in 1985 and 1989. He served as state health minister between 1990 and 1991 in the then chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav's government.

He was the labour and employment minister in Mulayam Singh Yadav's government between 2002 and 2004. *—PTI*

BILL LISTED IN RAJYA SABHA TO ENSURE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN VIEW OF AI

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Amid global concerns over how Artificial Intelligence may affect the workforce, Trinamool Congress MP Mausam Noor is batting for transparency in the use of AI technologies at the workplace to prevent biases, and discrimination in hiring, and promotions from taking place.

The Workforce Rights (Artificial Intelligence) Bill, 2023, a private member bill listed by Noor in the Upper House, says as AI becomes increasingly integrated into the workplace, laws must adapt to protect the workers' rights.

The bill spells out the rights of an employee in case AI is being used by the organisation. It says the government must ensure transparency in the use of AI technologies within the workplace and give employees the 'right to refuse' tasks or decisions solely based on AI-generated processes if they feel it violates their rights or ethical standards.

It also seeks to provide adequate training and upskilling opportunities for employees affected by AI implementation, and protection of employee privacy rights, including data security and confidential handling of personal information.

It also seeks an "equality impact assessment" from time to time to ensure fairness and compliance. *—PTI*

RATLAM'S KALIKA TEMPLE

MP temple bans 'western & skimpy' dress

RATLAM, 28 JULY

Several plaques mentioning the type of banned clothes are put up around this four-century-old temple *PHOTO: FB*

Devotees clad in "skimpy western dress" and shorts will not be allowed to enter Goddess Kalika temple in Ratlam city of Madhya Pradesh, its priest said.

"Devotees dressed in western and skimpy attire and shorts (half pants) won't be allowed to enter the temple to protect its sanctity," priest Rajendra Sharma said.

Several plaques mentioning the type of banned clothes are put up around this four-century-old temple.

"Any devotee clad in indecent dress won't be allowed to enter the temple or the sanctum sanatorium," Sharma said, adding that such devotees can have a darshan from outside.

The temple is looked after by the Ratlam district administration under the Court of Wards Act.

"I have learnt the temple management committee's decision to ban the western outfits," tehsildar Rishabh Thakur said.

Sharma claimed King Ratan Singh, who carved Ratlam, had built this temple 400 years ago and consecrated the clan goddess. Welcoming the decision, a devotee said the western attire is an attack on India's rich culture and Sanatan dharma.

Besides the reigning deity, idols of Maa Chamunda and Maa Annapurna are also consecrated in the temple, frequent by a huge number of devotees from Ratlam and elsewhere.

A garba festival is organised on the temple premises during Navratri. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Delhi HC to rule on plea against Ramdev today

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The Delhi High Court will on Monday pronounce its order on a plea by several doctors' associations against Yoga guru Ramdev over his claim of 'Coronil' being a "cure" for Covid-19. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani had reserved the order on the issue on 21 May. Three Resident Doctors' Association of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Rishikesh, Patna and Bhubaneswar as well as Association of Resident Doctors, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh; Union of Resident Doctors of Punjab (URDP); Resident Doctors' Association, Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, Meerut; and the Telangana Junior Doctors' Association, Hyderabad had moved the high court in 2021 against Ramdev and others. *—PTI*

Two killed in elephant attack in Jharkhand

JAMSHEDPUR, 28 JULY

Two people including a woman were killed in elephant attack in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, a forest official said on Sunday. A septuagenarian man was crushed to death by a pachyderm when he went out to relieve in a forest near Chauthia village in the early hours of Sunday, the official said. The elephant attacked the old man suddenly and dragged him to a distance before killing him. In another incident, an elderly woman was killed under the debris of a wall that collapsed in an attack by a wild elephant in Dighi village late on Saturday night. The woman identified as Baso Hansdah, a widow, was sleeping when the elephant attacked her house and broke the wall, which fell on her. *—PTI*

Govt to host State Museum Conclave from 1-3 Aug

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Curators, administrators of museums and domain experts will gather next week in Delhi for a three-day conclave to foster collaboration between the Centre and states in pursuance of the proposed 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum' project. The State Museum Conclave, to be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, will be held from 1-3 August at the Bharat Mandapam where the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) is currently underway. The new museum, to be housed in the North Block and South Block in the heart of the country's capital, will be spread over 1,54,000sqm, making it the largest museum in the world. The conclave has a diverse group of stakeholders, including resident commissioners and researchers across the country. *—PTI*

Video shows drunk teacher at MP school; probe on

SHAHDOL, 28 JULY

A video of a teacher coming to work in an inebriated state at a government school in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district surfaced on social media, prompting the authorities to order a probe, an official said on Sunday. The purported video shot by villagers on Saturday showed a teacher, allegedly drunk, at a government primary school in Shankargarh village in Beohari block. Talking to PTI, district education officer (DEO) Phool Singh Marapachi said he received the video of the teacher, Udaybhan Singh Nat, on social media. Block education officer (BEO) HL Pendro has been directed to probe the incident, he said. The official said that action would be taken against the teacher after the probe report arrives on Monday.— *PTI*

Experts urge reassessment of counter-terror ops in J&K

This is amid a series of violent incidents over past few week

JAMMU, 28 JULY

With an uptick in terrorist activities in the otherwise peaceful Jammu region, security experts have suggested a comprehensive reassessment of the existing counterterrorism strategies employed by security forces.

Retired Lieutenant General DS Hooda, former general officer commanding-in-chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Command, emphasised the urgent need for a proactive approach to counter the evolving terrorist tactics.

Former deputy chief of Army staff (Strategy) Lt Gen Paramjit Singh Sangha expressed confidence the security forces will learn from their recent mistakes and improve counterinsurgency efforts.

The Jammu region has witnessed a series of violent incidents over the past few weeks. A recent ambush claimed the lives of nine army personnel, including a captain, in the remote forest areas of Machedi in Kathua. The perpetrators still at large.

The experts expressed confidence that security forces will learn from their recent mistakes and improve counterinsurgency efforts *PHOTO: PTI*

On 9 June, nine passengers, including seven pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khori temple in Reasi district, were killed in a terrorist attack. Police have arrested several suspects linked to the attack, however the main assailants remain unidentified.

"Over time, we have observed a shift in tactics, with terrorists increasingly adopting ambush and 'shoot and scoot' strategies," Lt Gen (Retd) Hooda told PTI over the phone, underlining the need for security forces to reevaluate their strategies to understand and rectify potential shortcomings.

Distinguishing between the operational environments of Jammu and the Valley, Hooda noted that while terrorists in Kashmir are often contained within localised areas, those in Jammu are strategically positioned in challenging terrains, complicating military responses.

- After a decisive campaign against terrorism in 2005, the region has seen a resurgence of violence, particularly in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch

Echoing similar sentiments, former deputy chief of Army staff (Strategy) Lt Gen (Retd) Paramjit Singh Sangha expressed confidence in the security forces' capacity to learn from the recent setbacks and improve counter-insurgency efforts.

After a decisive campaign against terrorism in 2005, which largely cleared Jammu of militant activities, the region has seen a resurgence of violence, particularly in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where over 70 individuals, including 52 security personnel, have been killed in terror-related incidents since 2021.

—PTI

Centre to mandate floodplain zone law

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

- Ministry has proposed to make the enactment of the Flood Plain Zoning Act a prerequisite for states to access funds under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme

With only four states complying despite repeated reminders, the Centre is contemplating making it mandatory for states to enact floodplain zoning legislation if they want to access central flood management funds, officials have said.

The four states that have enacted such legislations are: "Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir.

A senior official said the Ministry of Jal Shakti has been in continuous communication with state governments, urging them to notify the Flood Plain Zoning Act and demarcate flood zones,

Recently, the Central Water Commission updated the Model Act, and the ministry plans to initiate another round of consultations with states, the official said.

The official said the ministry has proposed making the enactment of the Flood Plain Zoning Act a prerequisite for states to access funds under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP).

The official said the ministry has made several other efforts to address these issues.

The legislation provided guidelines for flood zoning authorities, surveys, delineation of flood plain areas, notification of flood plain limits, restrictions on flood plain use, and provisions for compensation and removal of obstructions. The official said even the states that have enforced the law are yet to fully implement it.

Common constraints given by the states are -- issue of evacuation of people who are already occupying the floodplains, lack of alternative settlement due to constraints of flood, non-availability of high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for flood prone assessment studies and a lack of clarity on proper definition of flood plain. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Last week, enraged Kanwariyas who were hit by the car had dragged out the driver from the vehicle and destroyed the car *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

More traffic curbs as Kanwariyas create ruckus

GHAZIABAD, 28 JULY

Police have intensified security in some areas of Ghaziabad district and imposed more traffic curbs after a car allegedly hit some Kanwariyas in Muradnagar, who then thrashed the driver and vandalised the vehicle, an official said on Sunday.

The Kanwariyas later blocked a stretch of the Delhi-Meerut expressway here, on which the incident took place, and created a ruckus, resulting in a traffic jam, the official said.

Two companies of Provincial armed constabulary (PAC) have been deployed at Ganga canal bridge of Muradnagar town, adjacent to Rawali road, and security has been beefed up in other areas of the district as well in view of the sensitive situation after the incident, said Ghaziabad Commissioner of Police Ajay Kumar Mishra.

The incident took place on Saturday near Rawali Road in Muradnagar when the car hit some Kanwariyas, and the 'kanwar' (pot) being carried by one them allegedly broke. The enraged Kanwariyas then dragged out the driver from the vehicle and thrashed him, he said.

They also allegedly vandalised the car and overturned it, Mishra said. *—PTI*

'Bring back Netaji's remains from Japan'

KOLKATA, 28 JULY

Legendary freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew Chandra Kumar Bose on Sunday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring back the "mortal remains of Netaji" from Japan's Renkoji by 18 August.

He also said a final statement should come from the central government on the matter so that "false narratives" about Netaji are laid to rest.

Stating that the NDA-led government took initiative to declassify files related to the freedom fighter, Bose said after the release of all the "10 inquiries - national and international", it is evident that "Netaji perished on 18 August, 1945" in an air crash in Taiwan.

"It is therefore imperative that a final statement is made from the Government of India so that false narratives about the liberator of India are laid to rest," Bose wrote in a letter to Modi on Sunday.

Bose said the declassification process has exposed secret files and documents, "which conclusively establish that Netaji died in this air crash on 18 August, 1945".

He said that Netaji wanted to return to India after Independence, but could not as he died in the air crash.

"It is highly insulting that Netaji's remains have been kept at the Renkoji temple," Bose said.

Bose maintained that Netaji's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff wants to perform his last rites as per the Hindu tradition. *—PTI*

No misappropriation of funds: DU panel

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

A Delhi University committee investigating alleged "financial irregularities" in 12 Delhi government-funded colleges has ruled out any misappropriation of funds and said the colleges can continue with their affiliation with the university.

The panel submitted its findings in a report that was presented in the 1270th meeting of the DU's Executive Council convened on Saturday to approve and discuss some key decisions. The Executive

PHOTO: PTI

Council (EC) is the university's highest decision-making body.

In its report, the committee has stated that the recognition of these 12 colleges cannot be cancelled according to rules and they are an integral part of the Delhi University (DU).

The panel, comprising members of the EC, was formed after Delhi Education Minister Atishi last year in December wrote a letter to the Centre flagging "irregularities and procedural lapses involving hundreds of crores of rupees from the public exchequer" in these colleges.

Though some teachers' groups and some members of the panel did not fully agree with the report, it was accepted by the EC. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Four UNLF militants arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, 28 JULY

Manipur Police arrested four militants of United National Liberation Front (Pambei) from Imphal West district, an official statement said.

The four were arrested from the Chingmeirong area of the district on Friday and were involved in a firing incident, assault of civilians, and outraging the modesty of a woman, the statement issued by the police control room said.

The police also arrested one active member of proscribed outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (Taibangnganba) from Tejpur IVR in Kakching District on Saturday.

The arrested person was involved in extortion activities, it said. *—PTI*

DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD

Wangchuk warns of hunger strike from 15 Aug

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Climate activist Soman Wangchuk announced on Sunday that he will launch another 28-day fast on Independence Day if the government does not invite Ladakh authorities for talks on demands for Statehood and constitutional protection for the union territory.

In an interview with PTI, Wangchuk said that the Apex Body, Leh (ABL), and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) from Ladakh submitted a memorandum of demands to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Dras on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas last week.

In March, Wangchuk went on a 21-day fast, surviving only on salt and water, to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to help protect the ecologically fragile region from "greedy" industries.

In March, Wangchuk went on a 21-day fast, surviving only on salt and water, to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the *PHOTO: PTI*

After the abrogation of Article 370, Ladakh became a separate union territory "without legislature". The Buddhist-dominated Leh district had long demanded union territory status due to alleged neglect by the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir government. They can establish village councils or courts for dispute resolution and manage facilities and services within their areas, including education and healthcare. They also have the authority to impose taxes and regulate certain activities.

In 2019, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda promised to do "whatever is required from a constitutional perspective to protect them". *—PTI*

COACHING CENTRE FLOODING

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said the institute was functioning in violation of the norms of the fire department *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

Owner, coordinator arrested in Delhi UPSC centre deaths

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The owner and the coordinator of a coaching centre where three civil services aspirants died due to rain-induced flooding in the basement were arrested on Sunday even as protests erupted in the area over the incident.

According to officials, the coaching institute had permission to use the basement as a store room, but it was being used as library which is a violation of the rules.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi directed MCD Commissioner to take strict action against institutes that are using basements for commercial purposes in violation of building bye-laws and against any officers responsible for the incident.

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said the institute was functioning in violation of the norms of the fire department.

"The building has fire NOC, but in the NOC they had shown the basement will be used as store room. The management of the institute was using the same room as a classroom or library which is a violation of the NOC," Garg said.

The arrested accused are Abhishek Gupta, owner of the coaching centre, and Deshpal Singh, the centre's coordinator. Protests erupted at Rajinder Nagar over the incident with former DCW chief Swati Maliwal also visiting the incident site. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav also visited the site.

Searches at the coaching centre continued past the midnight and ended after seven hours. Shreya Yadav of Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana and Navin Dalwin from Ernakulam in Kerala were identified to have died in the incident, police said.

At the RML Hospital, there was anger among the relatives of the victims, who claimed they were not being allowed to see the bodies even though they have been waiting since morning. *—PTI*

> **This collapse of infrastructure is a combined failure of the system. The common citizen is paying the price of unsafe construction, poor town planning and irresponsibility of institutions at every level by losing his life**
>
> -Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

Delhi woman says Ayodhya mosque land is hers

LUCKNOW, 28 JULY

A woman from Delhi has claimed that the land earmarked for the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya after the Supreme Court order in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case belongs to her family, and she will move the apex court to get its possession.

However, Rani Punjabi's claims were denied by Zufar Farooqui, who is the head of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Trust which has been formed for the construction of the mosque, saying her claims were already rejected by the Allahabad High Court in 2021.

Farooqui, who is also the chairperson of the Sunni Central Waqf Board, said work on the entire project, including the construction of the mosque, will start from October this year.

Rani Punjabi, a resident of Delhi, claims that the five acres of land given by the administration to the Sunni Central Waqf Board in Dhannipur village of Ayodhya after the 2019 order of the Supreme Court is a part of 28.35 acres of land owned by her family.

Rani Punjabi, a resident of Delhi, claims that the five acres of land given by the administration to the Sunni Central Waqf Board in Dhannipur village of Ayodhya after the 2019 order of the Supreme Court is a part of 28.35 acres of land owned by her family.

She said her family used the land for farming until 1983, when her father's health deteriorated and the family settled in Delhi for his treatment. *—PTI*

SEA FIGHTS BACKS

A shocking video from Mumbai's Cuffe Parade's Prakash Pethe Marg shows tons of plastic garbage washed ashore after heavy rains and high tides. The sea seems to have returned the city's trash after heavy torrential rains. The video, which has now gone viral, has sparked outrage and calls for action

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Many students don't have access to physical edu: UN

UNESCO's education team reveals that only 58 per cent of the countries have made physical education compulsory for girls ***PHOTO: SALAR NEWS***

The majority of the world's schoolchildren still do not have access to the minimum required physical education, according to the first-ever Global Status Report on Quality Physical Education.

The report, "Global State of Play", published by UNESCO's education team, revealed that only 58 per cent of the countries have made physical education compulsory for girls and that only 7 per cent of schools worldwide have established equal physical education time for boys and girls.

Two-thirds of secondary school students and more than half of primary school students worldwide are not taught the required minimum weekly physical education.

An expert from the team told PTI that less than one in two primary school teachers has received specialist training in physical education. The team also flagged major differences in funding for physical education between countries -- two-thirds devote less than 2 per cent of their education budget to it while one country in 10 allocates more than 7 per cent.

"Physical Education (PE) has been a subject of extensive discussion among health and education professionals worldwide due to its potential to support learning and contribute to the holistic development of students. Opportunities for professional development are scarce due to budgetary constraints and/or insufficient time allocated in teacher schedules to attend training.

> • UNESCO developed the concept of Quality Physical Education (QPE) to distinguish it from traditional PE and highlight the importance of core factors such as frequency, variety, inclusivity and value content

"For instance, only 33 per cent of countries reported providing in-service training (INSET) and continuous professional development (CPD) to their PE workforce every five years, which significantly deviates from the recommended annual frequency," the report said.

Regarding the inclusion of girls and students with disabilities in physical education, 58 per cent of the countries worldwide report their participation in mainstream settings, yet significant disparities still exist between regions.

"A concerning issue is the discrepancy between policy and practice. For instance, while 54.5 per cent of countries report policies, strategies, guidelines or plans to provide equal amounts of PE time for boys and girls, in practice, only 7.1 per cent of schools report that equal PE time is actually implemented for boys and girls," the report said.

"This equates to a 47.4 per cent difference between policy and practice, a result that is observable across all regions. Similarly, one in three students with disabilities still has no access to PE," it said.

UNESCO developed the concept of Quality Physical Education (QPE) to distinguish it from traditional PE and highlight the importance of core factors such as frequency, variety, inclusivity and value content.

"There is a need for subjects like physical education to consider future orientations and curriculum developments to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness in relation to meeting student needs and learning outcomes," the report said.

"A teacher's delivery of a PE curriculum is a central aspect to be considered to ensure practice is meaningful, inclusive and meets the needs of a diverse range of learners. This clearly relies on a well-educated workforce with access to continuous professional development opportunities," it added.

Improving the training of sports teachers and educators, increasing investment in infrastructure, developing physical education programmes that are resolutely inclusive, particularly for girls and young people with disabilities, increasing the number of hours of physical education in school curricula and placing the values of sport at the heart of educational programmes are among the recommendations made by the team for countries. The report provides 10 indicators, including giving a good, moderate or poor score, to help local and national authorities assess the quality of physical education in their country and identify priority areas for improvement.

—PTI

SALAR سالار بنگلور

'ADHD is treatable but presents challenges'

The hurdles such as "My brain has way too many tabs open"; "Why can't I complete tasks?"; "Why do I lose track of time?""; "Why can't I pay attention?" and many all things people with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, may ask themselves daily, if not hourly.

Kate Harrington, Lecturer of Clinical Pathophysiol said that as a family nurse practitioner in primary care, she have diagnosed and treated numerous patients with ADHD. She was also diagnosed with it at the age of 21.

Understanding how the wiring differs in a brain with ADHD and what improves functioning is critical to help those struggling because of their brain's uniqueness.

How brains with ADHD differ

Research has identified multiple differences in how brains with ADHD work.

Executive functioning is a set of cognitive processes, including planning, prioritising, impulse control, flexibility, time management and emotional regulation, that help people achieve long-term goals.

These processes occur in the prefrontal cortex – the "personality centre" – of the brain.

In addition to the prefrontal cortex, ADHD affects other areas of the brain, including the basal ganglia, an area that regulates communication within the brain, and the cerebellum, which is responsible for movement and balance. All three work together regulating attention, executive function motor activity and impulse control.

Chemical messengers called neurotransmitters allow brain cells to communicate with each other. Dopamine and norepinephrine are two key neurotransmitters that play critical roles in the executive functioning of the brain.

Dopamine controls motivation, rewards and pleasure. We get a flood of dopamine from pleasurable things such as eating, drinking alcohol, having sex, and receiving affirmations or good grades. That flood also motivates us to repeat the "rewarding" behaviour. Norepinephrine is responsible for sustaining attention and helps with executive functioning.

People with ADHD have lower levels of dopamine and norepinephrine in brain regions, including the prefrontal cortex. This leads to difficulty in sustaining cognitive functions such as attention, impulse control and motivation.

Studies show that people with ADHD have more dopamine transporters in the brain. Think of transporters as vacuums that suck dopamine back up into the neuron, making it less available.

As a result, there is less activation by dopamine and norepinephrine in the prefrontal cortex and the mesolimbic pathway, the area that processes rewards and motivation. Less dopamine can drive people to seek out stimulating rewards such as technology, food or drugs.

Researchers have identified at least 27 possible genetic markers that modulate dopamine regulation in the brain.

Diagnosing ADHD

Nearly everyone with or without ADHD show some symptoms such as forgetfulness. For instance, when you can't tolerate sitting in a meeting for one moment longer or you can't remember why you came into a room.

How ADHD medications alter neurotransmitters

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of ADHD in children and teens.

The first US guidelines for the treatment of adult ADHD are expected to be released in fall 2024.

If patients are 6 or older, stimulant or nonstimulant medications may be used, along with behavioral therapy.

Stimulants are divided into two drug classes: amphetamines, such as Adderall and Vyvanse, and methylphenidates, such as Concerta, Ritalin and Focalin.Nonstimulants such as Strattera are recommended if patients cannot tolerate or prefer not to take stimulant medications.

Amphetamines also increase the release of dopamine and norepinephrine from neurons. These increased levels allow the brain to find challenging tasks, such as doing homework, more rewarding. Because more dopamine is available, the brain's desire for stimulating rewards decreases.

Dietary supplements

Multiple studies have demonstrated that children with ADHD have lower levels of vitamin D in their bloodstream.

Having adequate iron in one's body, stored in the protein ferritin, is important to create dopamine and norepinephrine, the neurotransmitters that are lacking in ADHD.

—Courtesy,The Conversation

ADHD affects other areas of the brain, including the basal ganglia ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

LETTERS write to us at salar@salar.news

Why the wacky Paris Olympics 2024 opening upset bishops?

Revolution ran like a high-voltage wire through the wacky, wonderful and rule-breaking Olympic opening ceremony that the French capital used to astound, bemuse and, at times, poke a finger in the eye of global audiences on Friday night.

That Paris put on the most flamboyant, diversity-celebrating, LGBTQ+-visible of opening ceremonies wasn't a surprise. Anything less would have seemed a betrayal of the pride the French capital takes in being a home to humanity in all its richness.

But still. Wow. Paris didn't just push the envelope. It did away with it entirely as it hammered home a message that freedom must know no bounds.

A practically naked singer painted blue made thinly veiled references to his body parts. Blonde-bearded drag queen Piche crawled on all fours to the thumping beat of "Freed From Desire" by singer-songwriter Gala, who has long been a potent voice against homophobia. There were the beginnings of a menage à trois — the door was slammed on the camera before things got really steamy — and the tail end of an intimate embrace between two men who danced away, hugging and holding hands.

"In France, we have the right to love each other, as we want and with who we want. In France, we have the right to believe or to not believe. In France, we have a lot of rights. Voila," said the audacious show's artistic director, Thomas Jolly.

Jolly, who is gay, says being bullied as a child for supposedly being effeminate drove home early on how unjust discrimination is.

The amorous vibe and impudence were too much for some.

"Know that it is not France that is speaking but a left-wing minority ready for any provocation," posted far-right French politician Marion Maréchal, adding a hashtagged "notinmyname."

How Paris both awed and shocked

A 21st-century update of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper' DJ and producer Barbara Butch, an LGBTQ+ icon who calls herself a "love activist," wore a silver headdress that looked like a halo as she got a party going on a footbridge across the Seine, above parading athletes — including those from countries that criminalize LGBTQ+ people. Drag artists, dancers and others flanked Butch on both sides.

The tableau brought to mind Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," which depicts the moment when Jesus Christ declared that an apostle would betray him.

The French Catholic Church's conference of bishops described the scenes as derision and mockery of Christianity ***PHOTO: @TTAVOFFICIAL***

Jolly says that wasn't his intention. He saw the moment as a celebration of diversity, and the table on which Butch spun her tunes as a tribute to feasting and French gastronomy.

"My wish isn't to be subversive, nor to mock or to shock," Jolly said. "Most of all, I wanted to send a message of love, a message of inclusion and not at all to divide."

"One of the main performances of the Olympics was an LGBT mockery of a sacred Christian story - the Last Supper - the last supper of Christ. The apostles were portrayed by transvestites," the spokesperson for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova, posted on Telegram.

"Apparently, in Paris they decided that since the Olympic rings are multi-colored, they can turn everything into one big gay parade," she added.

The French Catholic Church's conference of bishops deplored what it described as "scenes of derision and mockery of Christianity" and said "our thoughts are with all the Christians from all continents who were hurt by the outrage and provocation of certain scenes." LGBTQ+ athletes, though, seemed to have a whale of a time. British diver Tom Daley posted a photo of himself recreating the standout Kate Winslet-Leonardo DiCaprio scene from "Titanic," only with the roles reversed: He was at the boat's prow with arms outstretched, as rower Helen Glover held him from behind. Is that a revolver in your pocket? When a giant silver dome lifted to reveal singer Philippe Katerine reclining on a crown of fruit and flowers, practically naked and painted blue, audiences who didn't think he was Papa Smurf may have guessed that he represented Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and ecstasy.

But unless they speak French, they may not have caught the cheekiness of his lyrics.

"Where to hide a revolver when you're completely naked?" he sang, pointing down to his groin. "I know where you're thinking. But that's not a good idea."

"No more rich and poor when you go back to being naked. Yes," Katerine continued.

Decades after Brigitte Bardot sang "Naked in the Sun," this was Paris' reminder that everyone starts life in their birthday suit, so where's the shame.Paris museums are full of paintings that celebrate the human form. Gustave Courbet's "Origin of the World" hangs in the Musée d'Orsay. The 16th-century "Gabrielle d'Estrées and one of her sisters," showing one bare-breasted woman pinching the nipple of another, hangs in the Louvre. France sends a message Clad in a golden costume, French-Malian pop star Aya Nakamura strode confidently out of the hallowed doors of the Institut de France, a prestigious stronghold of French language, culture and commitment to freedom of thought. Even without a note being sung, the message of diversity, inclusion and Black pride was loud. Au revoir, closed minds and stuffy traditions.

Off with their head! When London hosted the Summer Games in 2012, it paid homage to the British monarchy by giving Queen Elizabeth II a starring role in the opening ceremony.

—AP

500 dead last month in Karachi due to heatwave

KARACHI, 28 JULY

More than 500 people died in Pakistan's Karachi due to the extreme heatwave in last month, reported ARY News. Following the deaths of 500 to 600 citizens in Karachi, the session court issued a notice to the power production company, K-Electric and others. According to the details, an application was filed in the Sessions Court to file a case against K-Electric for the deaths in the heat wave. The petitioner disclosed that between 500 to 600 people died in Karachi last month during the heatwave, blaming the power production company, K-Electric, for 'intentionally' causing power outages lasting 10 to 16 hours, ARY News reported. They said that the police refused to register a case against the electrician. *—ANI*

Security forces kill 4 terrorists in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 JULY

At least four terrorists were killed by the security forces during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said, reported ARY News. The operation was conducted in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district on Saturday. The military's media wing issued a statement saying that the security forces conducted an Intelligence-Based Operation in Tank district on the reported presence of terrorists. During an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists--involved in numerous terrorist activities, including abduction--were gunned down. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from them," the ISPR added. The locals appreciated the operation by the security forces, the ISPR stated, as reported by Dawn. *—ANI*

California wildfire tears through 5,000 acres/hour

CALIFORNIA, 28 JULY

An enormous wildfire has grown by 8 sq miles an hour (20 sq km) as it spreads across parts of northern California. The Park fire, which started on Wednesday in a suspected arson attack, has burned more than 350,000 acres of land north-east of Chico, and was only 10% contained as of Sunday morning, the state's fire agency Cal Fire said. About 2,500 firefighters are battling the blaze, which has been fuelled by steep terrain and wind gusts. A 42-year-old man was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of starting the fire by rolling a burning car into a gully near Alligator Hole in Butte County. It is now the largest fire in the state this year, and has consumed an area more than 1.5 times the size of New York City's five boroughs. Cal Fire incident commander Billy See said the fire has been spreading at a rate of 5,000 acres an hour. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X/@ROBERTDOWNEYJR

Robert Downey Jr to return to Marvel as Dr Doom

NEW YORK, 28 JUNE

Robert Downey Jr is returning to the Marvel superhero world after five years - but not to the 'Iron Man' role, which launched the blockbuster franchise. The actor will make his comeback as Dr Victor Von Doom, a prominent villain in the comic books which spawned the popular film series. Downey Jr will appear in 'Avengers: Doomsday', which is due to be released in May 2026, and a further instalment titled Secret Wars a year later. The 59-year-old was instrumental in launching the Marvel movie universe, starring in its first film Iron Man in 2008. He last appeared in a Marvel film in 2019's Avengers: End Game. *—BBC News*

Harris will deliver mayhem, crime, death to US: Trump

Donald Trump promises to restore law and order in the country

WASHINGTON, 28 JULY

Kamala Harris will deliver crime, chaos, mayhem, and death to the US, Donald Trump has said, intensifying his attacks on his Democratic rival as the 2024 presidential election campaign entered a critical final 100 day stretch.

Vice President Harris, 59, is the new presidential candidate of the Democratic party after incumbent President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race. Trump, a former US president and the 2024 Republican presidential candidate, painted his new chief rival, Harris, as worse than President Biden at a rally in Minnesota on Saturday along with his running mate Senator JD Vance.

"Ultra-liberal Kamala Harris will deliver crime, chaos, mayhem, and death to our country. I will restore law and order, justice in America," Trump, 78, said. Trump said on his very first day back in the White House, that he would terminate every single open border policy of the Biden-Harris Administration.

"And we will seal the border and we will stop the horrible invasion into our country.... No person in American politics has been more of an open border zealot than Border Czar Harris," he said.

Ex-US president Donald Trump and Kamala Harris Vice President *PHOTO: PTI*

> **Kamala wants to be the President for criminals and illegal aliens. I want to be the president of law-abiding Americans of every race, religion, colour, and creed. Harris is so extreme and unhinged that she has even declared the terms illegal alien and radical Islamic terrorism to be forbidden and unacceptable**
>
> -Donald Trump, Former US president

He slammed Harris' political record, saying that she "destroyed San Francisco" as county district attorney. "Kamala Harris was the original Marxist district attorney. She destroyed San Francisco and she will destroy our country," he alleged.

Describing her as a 'radical left lunatic" Trump alleged that Harris is "the most incompetent, unpopular, and far-left vice president in American history, probably the most far-left person in American history." Trump went after Harris on topics that included abortion, gun policy, climate change, entitlement programs and inflation.

A Kamala Harris presidency means four more years of extremism, weakness, failure, chaos, and probably World War III, he claimed. *—PTI*

Harris raises record $200M in a week

WASHINGTON, 28 JULY

Kamala Harris' campaign on Sunday announced that it has raised an USD 200 million in less than a week after she entered the race for the White House, reflecting the groundswell of support in her favour. The campaign also acknowledged that the 5 November election will be very close and decided by a small number of voters in just a few states. Harris is now the presumptive presidential nominee of the Democratic party after incumbent President Joe Biden on 20 July announced that he was withdrawing from the race. *—PTI*

Mourners from the Druze minority surround the bodies of some of the 12 children and teens killed in Golan Heights, on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Airstrike in Golan Heights kills 12, including children

TEL AVIV, 28 JULY

A rocket strike on Saturday at a soccer field killed at least 12 children and teens, Israeli authorities said.

Israel blamed Hezbollah for the strike in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, but Hezbollah rushed to deny any role. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Hezbollah "will pay a heavy price for this attack, one that it has not paid so far".

This is allegedly the deadliest strike on an Israeli target along the country's northern border since the fighting between Israel and the Lebanese group Hezbollah began.

It raised fears of a broader regional war.

"We are nearing the moment in which we face an all-out war," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz told Israeli told Channel 12.

The office of Netanyahu, who was on a visit to the United States, said he would cut short his trip by several hours, without specifying when he would return. It said he will convene the security Cabinet after arriving. But an all-out war with a militant group with far superior firepower to Hamas would be trying for Israel's military after nearly 10 months of fighting in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel's military has struck a school near Deir al-Balah, a city in central Gaza, killing at least 30 Palestinians and injuring more than 100, according to the Hamas-run ministry of health. *—PTI*

Priti joins race to replace Sunak as UK Oppn Leader

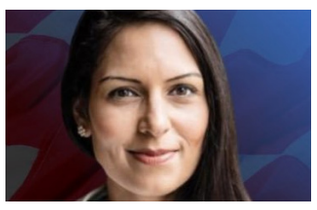
LONDON, 28 JULY

Priti Patel, the UK's former home secretary, on Sunday became the first female and Indian-origin candidate to enter the race to replace Rishi Sunak as Leader of the Opposition Conservative Party.

The 52-year-old parliamentarian pledged to unite her party and turn the Conservatives into an election "winning machine" once again under her leadership.

The Conservative Party earlier this month faced a historic defeat under the leadership of former prime minister Sunak in the general election.

She now goes head-to-head with former ministers James Cleverley, Tom Tugendhat, Mel Stride and Robert Jenrick, who have all entered the leadership contest formally before Monday's deadline for nominations.



Priti Patel
PHOTO: X/@PRITIPATEL

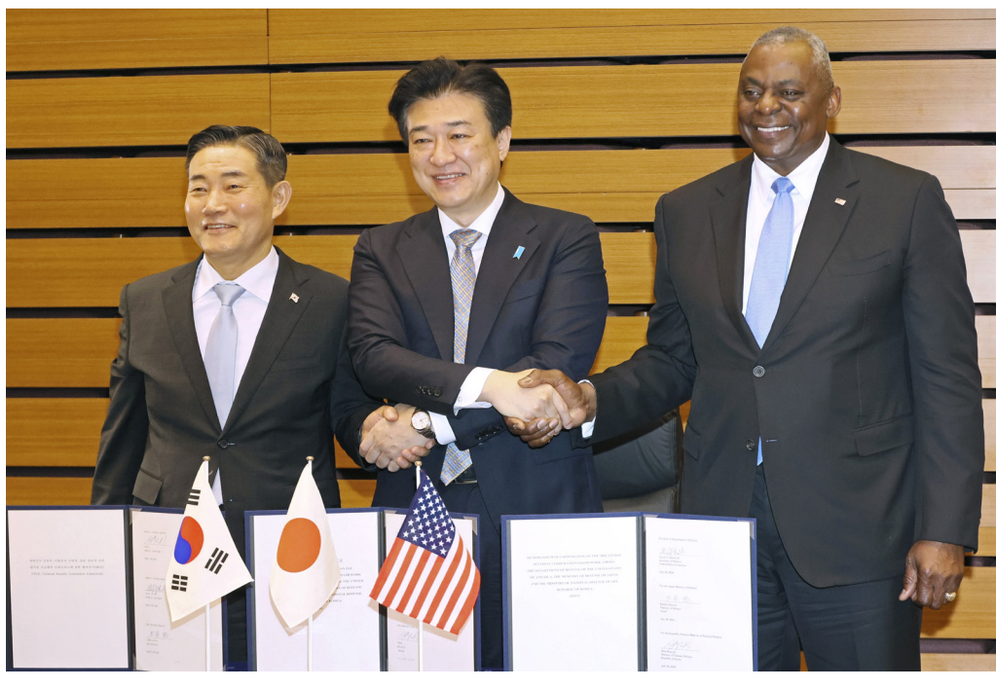
RishiSunak
PHOTO: X/@RISHISUNAK

Sunak had announced his resignation on 5 July as the Labour Party landslide win unfolded and is now serving as Acting Opposition Leader until 2 November.

Kemi Badenoch is expected as the second female in the race with another former Indian-origin home secretary, Suella Braverman, believed to be getting the requisite backing of 10 MPs for a possible nomination.

UK-born Patel, whose parents are of Gujarati-Ugandan descent, has served as international development secretary and home secretary in former Tory Cabinets under Theresa May and Boris Johnson. She was conferred a Damehood in the latter's resignation honours list, moving to the backbenches under Sunak's premiership and often voicing criticism of his government's high taxation policies. *—PTI*

INSTITUTIONALISING SECURITY TIES



Republic of Korea Minister Shin Won-sik, Japan Minister of Defense Kihara Minoru and United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin III convened a Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Sunday in Tokyo *PHOTO: PTI*

Italy's PM aims to reset relations on visit to China

BEIJING, 28 JULY

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is on an official visit to China this week to try to reset relations as fears of a trade war with the European Union are interwoven with continued interest in attracting Chinese investment in auto manufacturing and other sectors.

Meloni met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in the Chinese capital on Sunday ahead of a forum with Italian and Chinese business leaders. Her five-day visit comes several months after Italy dropped out of China's Belt and Road Initiative, a signature policy of Chinese leader Xi Jinping to build power and transportation infrastructure around the world to stimulate global trade while also deepening China's ties with other nations.

But Italy says the promised economic benefits didn't materialise, and its membership created friction with other Western European governments and the United States.

Giorgia Meloni
PHOTO: X/@GIORGIAMELONI

Still, Italy remains keen to pursue an otherwise strong economic relationship with China. Stellantis, a major automaker that includes Italy's Fiat, announced in May that it had formed a joint venture with Leapmotor, a Chinese electric car startup, to begin selling EVs in Europe. *—AP*

Muizzu thanks India, China for support

BEIJING/MALE, 28 JULY

President Mohamed Muizzu has thanked India and China for helping strengthen the Maldives' fragile economy, highlighting the importance of the two countries in addressing the Island nation's looming debt crisis and its future development.

China and India provide the most assistance in repaying the country's debt, President Muizzu said on Friday at an official function held to mark the 59th anniversary of the country's independence.

Muizzu came to power last year on an anti-India campaign plank seeking the removal of around 80 Indian military personnel operating helicopters and Dornier aircraft donated by India.

China for its part has scaled up its relations with Maldives, since Muzzu, widely regarded as a pro-Beijing leader, took over power. Early this year, he visited China during which the two countries elevated their ties to a strategic cooperative partnership and signed 20 agreements followed by a military assistance pact with Beijing much to the disquiet of India as Maldives is its closest neighbour located strategically in the Indian Ocean.

PHOTO: X/@MMUIZZU

> **I thank the Chinese government and the Indian government on behalf of the Maldivian people, to assure our economic sovereignty, for the sake of the Maldivian people**
>
> -Mohamed Muizzu, Maldives President

He also permitted Chinese research vessels also regarded as "spy ships" to berth in Maldives waters after Sri Lanka banned them for a year.

However, after clinching an agreement with India to replace the military personnel flying the helicopters used to evacuate the patients from a host of islands in the archipelagic nation, Muizzu warmed up to India and attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing ceremony.

He also praised Rs 400 crore assistance by India and sought to restructure debt owed to India by Maldives. *—PTI*

UKRAINE SAYS IT STRUCK AN OIL DEPOT IN RUSSIA

KYIV, 28 JULY

Ukraine on Sunday said it struck an oil depot in southern Russia that supplies the Kremlin's troops as Russian strikes in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow claimed further gains, left five civilians dead and 15 others wounded. Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Kyiv's security services were responsible for a drone strike in Russia's southern Kursk region that morning on an oil depot used to meet the needs of the Russian military, and contains 11 tanks with a total volume of 7,000 cubic metres. *—AP*

STUDENTS PROTEST

Mobile internet restored in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 JULY

The mobile internet connection was restored in Bangladesh on Sunday, 10 days after it was restricted by the authorities across the country to stop the spread of fake news on social media amidst the deadly nationwide violence over reforms in the quota system in government jobs.

Addressing a press conference here, Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak announced that 5GB internet will be given for free to all users for three days after the connection is restored, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The mobile internet connectivity was restored at around 3.00 pm local time. Users of Robi, Grameenphone, Banglalink and other operators in Dhaka said they could access the internet through their phones around 3 pm, the report said.

The mobile internet connectivity was restored at around 3.00 pm local time
PHOTO: PTI

On 18 July, the government shut down mobile internet following the escalation of violence across the country. At the time, Palak said the decision was made "in light of the current crisis in the country and to stop the spread of fake news on social media", The Daily Star newspaper reported.

The next day, amid escalating violence, the Department of Disaster Management building was set on fire, adjacent to which was a data centre. While Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) officials said that the fire might cut 30-40 per cent of the bandwidth supply, broadband internet connection for the entire country was disrupted within an hour.

Bangladesh stayed disconnected from both broadband and mobile internet between 18 July and 23 July, when broadband internet was restored in stages. However, mobile internet remained unavailable until Sunday.

Bangladesh witnessed violent clashes between the police and mostly student protesters demanding an end to a controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971. *—PTI*

Venezuelan polls could lead to seismic shift in politics

CARACAS, 28 JULY

- Retired diplomat Edmundo González is the only opponent on the ballot who represents a real threat to Maduro's hold on power

Polls have opened in Venezuela, where 17 million voters must choose between handing the increasingly authoritarian Nicolás Maduro a third presidential term or throwing their support behind an unknown newcomer promising to end 25 years of single-party rule.

Retired diplomat Edmundo González is the only opponent on the ballot who represents a real threat to Maduro's hold on power. He emerged as an accidental candidate in April as a last-minute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled supreme court from running for office.

The Opposition boycotted the 2018 presidential election, allowing Maduro to coast to victory at a time of hyperinflation and widespread shortages. Although electoral conditions have barely improved, it is competing this time because it believes widespread anger with Maduro's mismanagement of the economy will ensure his defeat. *—AP*

Adani to start 1st phase of petchem project by 2026

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Adani Group will commission the first phase of a USD 4 billion PVC project by December 2026, making its foray into the petrochemicals sector that is marked by a mismatch between domestic demand and supply, sources said. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) - the third-most common synthetic plastic polymer made worldwide - is used to make products such as raincoats, shower curtains, window frames, pipes for indoor plumbing, medical equipment, wire & cable insulation, bottles, credit cards, and flooring. India's annual PVC demand is roughly 4 million tonne but domestic production capacity is only about 1.5 million tonne, resulting in a supply-demand mismatch. With this disparity between domestic output and consumption expected to widen with an increase in consumption, Adani is looking to tap into the sector. Adani Enterprises, group's flagship, is setting up petrochemical cluster in Gujarat. *—PTI*

PSU banks may get 2-year extension to comply with MPS

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Public sector banks are expected to get another two-year extension to comply with Sebi's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms, a top government official has said. Out of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), five are yet to comply with MPS norms and the government's holding is beyond 75 per cent. As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25 per cent. However, the regulator gave special forbearance to state-owned banks till August 2024 to meet the requirement of 25 per cent MPS. Currently, government holding in Delhi-based Punjab & Sind Bank is 98.25 per cent. It is followed by Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank at 96.38 per cent, UCO Bank 95.39 per cent, Central Bank of India 93.08 per cent, Bank of Maharashtra at 86.46 per cent. *—PTI*

Ola Electric to raise ₹5,500 cr via filing IPO

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric Mobility will float its initial public offering (IPO) on 2 August, and a significant part of the proceeds will be used for capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant and revving up R&D. The initial share sale will conclude on 6 August, and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on 1 August, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). The company's proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 8.49 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, the prospectus showed. Under the OFS, Ola Electric founder Bhavish Aggarwal will offload almost 3.8 crore shares. According to its prospectus, Ola Electric Mobility Ltd (OEML) plans to utilise Rs 1,227.6 crore out of the proceeds of its Rs 5,500 crore public issue on capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant to 6.4 GWh from 5 GWh. *—PTI*

Magicpin to get 1L food delivery partners on ONDC

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Hyperlocal e-commerce firm magicpin plans to invest Rs 100 crore over the next three months to onboard over 1 lakh new restaurants and cloud kitchens on the government-backed e-commerce platform ONDC, the company said on Sunday. Magicpin will invest funds towards offering onboarding incentives like zero commission, zero onboarding fees, and free home delivery, among others, for customers. Magicpin is one of the leading seller apps on ONDC. Its food tech vertical competes with food delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato.The company claims to have introduced a self-onboarding tool to help restaurants, merchants to join ONDC in under five minutes. *—PTI*

Now, tax clearance certificate only for people with tax dues

The government clarifies after public outrage on social media

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

After social media outrage over a Budget proposal making it mandatory to get tax clearance certificates for going abroad, the government on Sunday clarified that the proposed amendment is not for all, and only those accused of financial irregularities or having substantial tax arrears need such clearance.

The finance ministry, in the Finance Bill, 2024, has proposed to add the reference of the Black Money Act, 2015, to the list of Acts, under which any person should clear his liabilities to obtain the tax clearance certificate.

As per section 230 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, every person is not required to obtain a tax clearance certificate. Only in the case of certain persons, in respect of whom circumstances exist, which make it necessary to obtain a tax clearance certificate will be required to obtain such a certificate.

The ministry said that the Income Tax department through a 2004 notification has specified that the tax clearance certificate may be required to be obtained by persons domiciled in India only in certain circumstances.

These include - where the person is involved in serious financial irregularities and his presence is necessary in the investigation of cases under the Income-tax Act or the Wealth-tax Act and it is likely that a tax demand will be raised against him, or where the person has direct tax arrears exceeding Rs 10 lakh outstanding against him, which have not been stayed by any authority.

The I-T department said that a person can be asked to obtain a tax clearance certificate only after recording the reasons for the same and after taking approval from the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax or Chief Commissioner of Income-tax. *—PTI*

The last date to file ITR is 31 July, 2024 **PHOTO: PTI**

- The I-T department said that a person can be asked to obtain a tax clearance certificate only after recording the reasons for the same and after taking approval from the Commissioner of Income-tax

'Making bogus claims to get refunds is punishable offence'

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

I-T Department has asked income tax return filers to not make bogus claims for expenses, under-report their earnings or exaggerate deductions as this is a punishable offence and causes a delay in issuance of refunds.

In a recent public communication, the Income Tax Department asked taxpayers to file their returns correctly to get timely refunds.

It cautioned ITR filing taxpayers to not claim "incorrect" Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) amounts, not "under-report" their income or "exaggerate" deductions or submit claims for "bogus" expenses.

"Filing a false or bogus claim is a punishable offence," the public communication said.

Taxpayers can claim a variety of deductions and exemptions to lower their tax liability under the old ITR filing regime. *—PTI*

BETTER-THAN-EXPECTED

FPIs invest ₹33,600 crore in equities in July

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Foreign investors injected over Rs 33,600 crore into Indian equities so far this month on the expectation of continued policy reforms, sustained economic growth and a better-than-expected earnings season.

However, they pulled out over Rs 7,200 crore from equities in the last three trading sessions (24-26 July) after the government hiked taxes on Futures and Options trades (F&O) and capital gains from equity investments in the Budget.

Market experts believe that Indian equity is well-positioned for the year to attract foreign investments. However, there may be some monthly volatility due to short-term news.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of Rs 33,688 crore in equities this month (till 26 July).

This came following an inflow of Rs 26,565 crore in equities in June, driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets.

PHOTO: PTI

Before that, FPIs withdrew Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

The large inflow of money into domestic mutual funds and the growing influence of retail investors have strengthened domestic investors compared to their foreign counterparts, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Apart from equities, FPIs invested Rs 19,223 crore in the debt market during the period under review. This has pushed the debt tally to Rs 87,847 crore this year so far. *—PTI*

Investment in equity MFs surge 5-fold to ₹94,151 cr

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Investment in equity mutual funds surged over five-fold to Rs 94,151 crore in the June 2024 quarter against Rs 18,358 crore a year ago, driven by a strong economic environment, supportive government fiscal policies, investors confidence and robust stock return.

This has also pushed the industry's assets under management (AUM) by 59 per cent to Rs 27.68 lakh crore in June from Rs 17.43 lakh crore a year ago, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

The robust gain in the asset base was also replicated in the growth of investors in equity mutual funds, with the number of folios closing at 13.3 crore, adding an investor base of over 3 crore.

According to the AMFI data, equity-oriented mutual fund schemes invested Rs 94,151 crore in the quarter ended June 2024. This comprises Rs 18,917 crore in April, Rs 34,697 crore in May and Rs 40,537 crore in June.

PHOTO: PTI

Within the equity segment, sectoral or thematic category attracted Rs 46,731 crore during the quarter under review, followed by Multi-cap (Rs 10,077 crore), Flexicap (Rs 8,387 crore), Large & Midcaps (Rs 7,948 crore), Smallcap (Rs 7,197 crore) and Midcap (Rs 6,927 crore).

Large-cap funds witnessed an infusion of Rs 1,991 crore during the April-June quarter of the current financial year (FY25).

The monthly SIP contributions crossed the Rs 21,000 crore mark in June, with the total inflow reaching an all-time high of Rs 21,262 crore. This shows investors' commitment to disciplined and long-term investing. *—PTI*

FIRM APPROVES MOVE

UltraTech to acquire 37.2% stake in India Cement for ₹3,954 cr

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Leading cement manufacturer UltraTech will acquire an additional 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements Ltd from the promoters of the South-based company for Rs 3,954 crore.

The board of the Aditya Birla firm on Sunday approved the proposal to acquire the promoters' 32.72 per cent stake at Rs 390 per share, UltraTech said in a regulatory filing on Sunday.

It has entered into three share purchase agreements to acquire 32.72 per cent of the equity share capital of ICL from the promoter family led by Srinivasan N and Gurunath, along with the holding entities.

After the completion of the Rs 3,954 crore deal, UltraTech's stake in India Cements Ltd (ICL) will reach over 55 per cent, mandating it to go for an open offer as per the SEBI regulations.

The board UltraTech has also approved an "open offer for up to 8.05 crore equity shares representing 26 per cent of the equity share capital of the target, at a price of Rs 390 per equity share from the public shareholders of Target", the filing said.

The price offered by UltraTech is 4.1 per cent higher than the ICL shares' closing price of Rs 374.60 last Friday.

ICL has a total group capacity of 16 MTPA, including 1.5 MTPA from its subsidiary Trinetra Cement Ltd.

Its capacity, over the past two decades, "has grown 11x, far outpacing the industry growth of 4x", according to an earlier statement by the company.

UltraTech Cement Limited is the cement flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group. *—PTI*

The price offered by UltraTech is 4.1% higher than ICL shares **PHOTO: PTI**

Govt scraps auction of 3 critical mineral blocks

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The government has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks, including a lithium mine in Jammu and Kashmir, under the third tranche of sale of mines due to a lower-than-required number of bidders.

The auction is a part of the government's push towards cleaner alternatives and self-reliance in critical mineral supplies.

The three blocks are Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block in Jammu and Kashmir, Muskaniya-Gareriatola-Barwari Potash block in Jharkhand and Kurunjakulam Graphite block in Tamil Nadu.

The Centre last month launched the fourth round of auctions of critical and strategic mineral blocks offering 21 mines in several states including Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. *—PTI*

Removal of angel tax for startups will help attract investors

MUMBAI, 28 JULY

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said that removal of angel tax, which was introduced in 2012 by the UPA government, for all classes of investors will help startups attract investments. He also said that the customs duty reduction for gold and silver from 15 per cent to 6 per cent will not only help small artisans but also promote the country's gems and jewellery exports. Further Goyal informed that the budget has announced the setting up of 12 industrial townships in the country. The budget has also announced steps to promote diamond trade. Angel tax (income tax at 30 per cent rate) was imposed on funding raised by unlisted companies, or startups, if their valuation exceeded. *—PTI*

DPIIT WORKING TO FIX FDI NORMS IN TOBACCO SECTOR

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

Commerce and Industry Ministry is working on a proposal to further tighten the foreign direct investment norms in the tobacco sector to check promotional activities and curb smuggling in the segment as firms are trying to circumvent norms, an official said.

At present, foreign direct investment (FDI) is prohibited in the manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes of tobacco or its substitutes. The domestic tobacco industry is mainly dominated by ITC Ltd.

FDI matters in the tobacco sector also assumed importance as India is a signatory to the WHO Framework. *—PTI*

Mcap of 6 of top-10 firms jumps ₹1.85L cr

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms jumped Rs 1,85,186.51 crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Infosys emerging as the biggest gainers.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 728.07 points or 0.90 per cent.

The valuation of LIC surged Rs 44,907.49 crore to Rs 7,46,602.73 crore. Infosys added Rs 35,665.92 crore to its market valuation at Rs 7,80,062.35 crore. ITC's valuation soared by Rs 35,363.32 crore to Rs 6,28,042.62 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped Rs 30,826.1 crore to Rs 15,87,598.71 crore and that of Bharti Airtel climbed Rs 30,282.99 crore to Rs 8,62,211.38 crore.

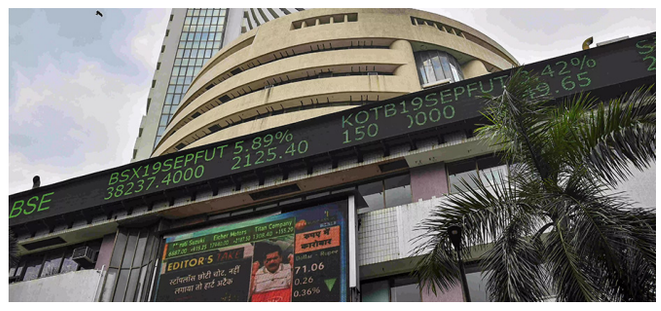
HDFC Bank's valuation rallied Rs 8,140.69 crore to Rs 12,30,842.03 crore.

However, the mcap of Reliance Industries tumbled by Rs 62,008.68 crore to Rs 20,41,821.06 crore. The valuation of ICICI Bank declined by Rs 28,511.07 crore to Rs 8,50,020.53 crore.

State Bank of India's mcap declined by Rs 23,427.1 crore to Rs 7,70,149.39 crore.

Hindustan Unilever's valuation went down by Rs 3,500.89 crore to Rs 6,37,150.41 crore.

Reliance Industries remains the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC. *—PTI*



LIC and Infosys emerged as biggest gainers **PHOTO: PTI**

SAY EXPERTS

India must be careful with China FDIs

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

There is a need to take a nuanced approach towards foreign direct investments from China, and the government can consider FDI applications from Beijing in sectors involving high-end technologies like electric vehicles and batteries, which are not available in other nations, an official said.

China has some modern capital equipment of different types, which can be important for India.

Under that press note, FDI from countries sharing land borders with India needs mandatory government approval in any sector. Countries which share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.

As the US and Europe are shifting their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then, export the products to these markets rather than importing from the neighbouring country, the survey has said.

India faces two choices to benefit from 'China plus one strategy' - it can integrate into China's supply chain or promote FDI from China.

China stands at 22nd position with only 0.37 per cent share (USD 2.5 billion) in the total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to March 2024.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Following these tensions, India has banned over 200 Chinese mobile apps like TikTok, WeChat, and Alibaba's UC browser. The country has also rejected a major investment proposal from EV maker BYD. *—PTI*

China has some modern capital equipment of different types, which can be important for India **PHOTO: PTI**

WTO accepts India's request to delay import duty dispute

NEW DELHI, 28 JULY

The WTO's dispute settlement body has accepted a request from India and Chinese Taipei not to adopt the ruling against New Delhi's import duties on certain information and technology products till October-end, as both sides are engaged in resolving the matter mutually, an official said.

The issue came up during a meeting of the dispute settlement body (DSB) in Geneva on 26 July.

"The DSB agreed to the latest requests from Chinese Taipei and India," the Geneva-based official said.

At the meeting, India and Chinese Taipei once again requested additional time from the DSB to consider the adoption of the panel rulings in the case initiated by Chinese Taipei regarding India's tariffs on certain high-tech goods. The two sides had asked that the DSB further delay consideration of the panel reports until October 28, 2024, to help facilitate the resolution of the disputes.

The dispute body had earlier agreed to four previous such requests from India and Chinese Taipei to delay consideration of the reports. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

INDIA'S HOPE FOR GOLD IS STILL ALIVE

Deepika's archery team proved to be the biggest letdown

PARIS, 28 JULY

After a couple of unforced errors, the badminton queen PV Sindhu showed her class. She was quick to assess the condition and took control of the proceedings, racing to a 11-4 lead. Sindhu beat Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq in the women's singles group stage match. Also, HS Prannoy opened his maiden campaign in Olympics with a straight-game win over lesser-ranked Fabian Roth of Germany.

In Table Tennis, Indian table tennis star Manika Batra made a strong start to her Paris Olympics campaign, defeating Anna Hursey of Great Britain in the Round of 64. The top-ranked woman paddler Sreeja Akula entered the round of 32 with a clinical 4-0 win over Sweden's Christina Kallberg. The 29-year-old Manika, on the other hand, dominated Anna Hursey of Great Britain in her round of 64 women's singles match that lasted 41 minutes. However, the table tennis veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal made a shock exit from the Paris Olympics men's singles competition.

ndian shooter Arjun Babuta secured a spot in the 10m air rifle final of the Olympic Games after finishing seventh in the qualification round here on Sunday.

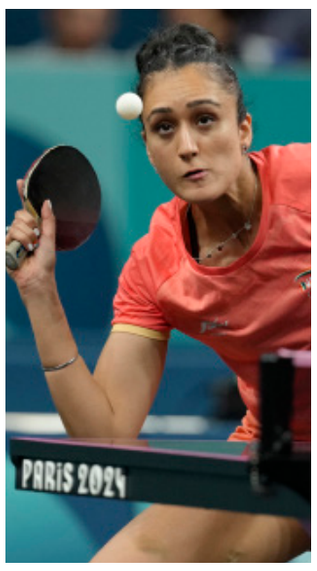
Nikhat Zareen powered into the women's 50kg Olympics pre-quarterfinals. Trailing on three cards after the first round, the 28-year-old Indian prevailed by a 5-0 margin against the German in a rather messy round of 32 contest at the North Paris Arena here.

Ramita Jindal also qualified for women's 10m air rifle final and Elavenil Valarivan eliminated.

However, the top seeded tennis player Sumit Nagal stuck to his strong baseline game but that didn't seem to be enough against mercurial Frenchman Corentin Moutet, who knocked out Nagal with a stylish three-set win.

India's most decorated archer Deepika Kumari proved to be the biggest letdown as the women's team lost in straight sets to lowly the Netherlands in the quarterfinals to end its Olympics campaign

—PTI



PV Sindhu returns a shot during during the Group stage; India's Manika Batra plays against Britain's Anna Hursey on Sunday in Paris ***PHOTOS: PTI***

Countries				
1. Korea	3	2	1	6
2. Aus	3	2	0	5
3. China	3	1	1	5
4. France	2	2	1	5
19. India	0	0	1	1

TODAY'S MATCH

BADMINTON | TIME: 12 PM

MEN'S DOUBLES, GROUP PLAY STAGE - GROUP C

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY, 23, ANDHRA PRADESH

Rankireddy's smash is a key aspect in his playing style. With his smash reaching a speed of 565 kmh he achieved a new Guinness World Record .

CHIRAG CHANDRA SHEKHAR SHETTY, 27, MAHARASHTRA

Shetty won gold medal in the mixed team event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES, GROUP PLAY STAGE - GROUP C | TIME: 12.50

ASHWINI PONAPPA, 34, KARNATAKA

Ponnappa-Crasto to face Japan's Nami Matsuyama-Chiharu Shida today.

TANISHA CRASTO, 21, GOA

In 2022 Syed Modi International, she clinched her maiden Super 300 title.

MEN'S SINGLES, GROUP PLAY STAGE - GROUP L | TIME: 5.30 PM

LAKSHYA SEN, 22, UTTARAKHAND

Sen made an impressive start to his campaign in the Paris Olympics 2024 after beating Guatemala's Kevin Cordon. He will meet Belgium's Julien Carraggi today.

SHOOTING | TIME: 12.30 PM

TRAP MEN, QUALIFICATION DAY 1

PRITHVIRAJ TONDAIMAN, 37, TAMIL NADU

Tondaiman won Bronze at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup at Doha. He is all set to become the first shooter from Tamil Nadu to take part in the Olympics.

10M AIR PISTOL MIXED TEAM, QUALIFICATION | TIME: 12.45 PM

- Sarabjot Singh, 22, Haryana
- Manu Bhaker, 22, Haryana

ARJUN SINGH CHEEMA, 23, PUNJAB

Cheema began as a swimmer and he also took part in an International Junior Swimming Championship in Austria.

- Rhythm Sangwan, 20, Uttar Pradesh

HOCKEY | TIME: 4:15 PM

MEN'S, GROUP B
INDIA VS ARGENTINA

India is the most successful team in men's field hockey at the Summer Games.

ARCHERY | TIME: 6:31 PM

MEN'S TEAM, QUARTERFINAL, INDIA VS TBC

DHIRAJ BOMMADEVARA, 22, ANDHRA PRADESH

TARUNDEEP RAI, 40, SIKKIM

PRAVIN RAMESH JADHAV, 28, MAHARASHTRA

ONE LAST BATTLE? RAFA AGAINST NOVAK IN 2ND ROUND

PARIS, 28 JULY

Rafael Nadal made a last-minute decision to play singles at the Paris Olympics on Sunday and won his first-round match against Marton Fucsovics 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to set up a blockbuster showdown against rival Novak Djokovic. Nadal was greeted by a standing ovation from spectators, many of whom used cameras on their phones to capture the moment when he strode into Court Philippe Chatrier — the same stadium where he has captured his record 14 French Open titles. There is a statue of Nadal outside the arena, and fans gathered around the steel structure Sunday morning, when it was still unclear whether he would be competing later.

Peaty in bid for 3rd gold

Adam Peaty qualified fastest for Sunday's final as he chases a sensational third consecutive 100m breast stroke Olympic gold in Paris. The 29-year-old Briton, aiming to become the second man after the great American Michael Phelps to win the same individual event at three Games in a row, won his semi-final in 58.86 seconds.

Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning the match ***PHOTO: PTI***

Emotional scene as Walsh exits

There were tears as an emotional Aidan Walsh exited the Olympics in Paris after losing to Makan Traore in the last 32. "The medals and the success, when you are going through your most difficult times they mean absolutely nothing," he said. *—AP/BBC News*

Srihari, Dhinidhi, both from K'taka, fail to reach semis

NANTERRE, 28 JULY

India's swimming campaign at the Paris Olympics came to an end with both Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu failing to progress to the semifinals of their respective events here on Sunday.

Nataraj finished joint-second in the slower heat with a timing of 55.01s but the 23-year-old was 33rd in the overall standing for the 100m men's backstroke event. The 16 fastest swimmers from the heats qualify to the semifinals.

The performance was far from Nataraj's personal best of 53.77s and was considerably slower than his season best time of 54.68s. Making her Olympic debut, 14-year-old Dhinidhi, the youngest member of the Indian contingent, did well to top her 200m women's freestyle heat. *—PTI*

Race 2: Kavin, Mohsin sign off at 18th and 23rd place

LOMBOK, 28 JULY

The duo of Kavin Quintal and Mohsin Paramban from IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team finished on 18th and 23rd position respectively in Race 2 of Round 4 of the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship here on Sunday. Competing in the AP250 class race at Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit, Kavin started from the 27th position on the grid but showcased his racing prowess producing a total time of 18:23.701. Despite the challenging circumstances, the 19-year-old from Chennai managed to stay steady and avoided any crash. His teammate, Mohsin from Malappuram, started the race from 21st on the grid and finished at the 23rd position in Race 2 with a total time of 18:45.987. Unfortunately, both the riders could not secure any points for the team in this round. ***—PTI***

City, Aston Villa, West Ham lose as Wolves win

MANCHESTER CITY, 28 JULY

Manchester City suffered a 3-2 defeat by AC Milan as the Premier League champions were beaten in a pre-season friendly in New York. Erling Haaland put City in front at the Yankee Stadium when he steered in a left-foot shot from an Oscar Bobb pull-back. Lorenzo Colombo equalised and quickly added a second for the Italian side as they went into half-time in the the lead. James McAtee headed in for City to level the game at 2-2 before Marco Nasti scored a winner with a first-time shot from the edge of the box to give AC Milan victory.***—BBC News***

SL beat India by 8 wickets to lift women's Asia Cup

DAMBULLA, 28 JULY

Captain Chamari Athapaththu's turbo-charged fifty combined well with the steadfast half-century of Harshitha Samarawickrama as a resilient Sri Lanka carved an eight-wicket win over defending champions India to bag their maiden women's Asia Cup title here on Sunday. This is the second time in nine Asia Cup editions (WODI and WT20I) across formats that India have lost a final. The last time India lost the final was against Bangladesh in 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. Tasked with hunting down a strong target of 166, Sri Lanka served well by Athapaththu (61b, 43b, 9x4, 2x6) and Samarawickrama (69 not out, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) and finished at 167 for two in 18.4 overs.

Athapaththu and Samarawickrama added 87 runs as Lankans always stayed ahead of their opponents. The stand for the for the second wicket was also of contrasts as Samarawickra was the yin to the yang of her aggressive leader. Athapaththu fetched her fifty in 33 balls, and Samarawickrama went past her mark in 43 balls and their shot selection too was vastly differing. But at the other end, Samarawickrama clearly lacked the power of her senior but she offset that with clever placings, such as reverse sweeps off left-arm spinners Deepti Sharma and Radha Yadav. But she picked up the tempo when Sri Lanka reached a rather safer zone, muscling a slog-swept six off Yadav over mid-wicket. *—PTI*

Sri Lankan players celebrate after winning the Trophy on Sunday ***PHOTO: X/@NEWSWIRELK***

RAIN DELAY

Indian bowling unit repeated its happy knack of effecting a collapse at the back-end as Sri Lanka ended with a below-par 161 for 9 in the second T20 International in Sri Lanka. However, rain started to pour down which stopped the game. ***Copy updated till 10.30 PM*** ***PHOTO: PTI***

AXAR PATEL HAILS SURYAKUMAR AS A 'BOWLER'S CAPTAIN'

PALLEKELE, 28 JULY

India all-rounder Axar Patel says new T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav is a bowlers' captain who allows them the freedom to execute their plans.

The spin all-rounder also said that the team will look to maximise its batting combinations in the ongoing series against Sri Lanka. Suryakumar and India made a winning start to the three-match series here on Saturday when they crushed hosts Sri Lanka by 43 runs in a high scoring opening T20I.

"I played in the last Australia series with Surya bhai (as captain). I know that he is a bowlers' captain. He gives you free hand (in a way) that you decide first," Axar said at the post-match press conference. "Whenever you get hit, he comes and says that it was a good ball," he said. *—PTI*

Jameshdpur beat Assam Rifles in Durand Cup

JAMSHEDPUR, 28 JULY

Sanan Mohammed's double strike powered Jamshedpur FC to a comfortable 3-0 victory against Assam Rifles in a Group D match of the Durand Cup here on Sunday.

Imran Khan scored the third goal for the Jamshedpur side. Jamshedpur dominated possession from the first whistle as they created chances in plenty. But the Assam Rifles defence, who were playing deep inside their box, thwarted the moves keeping the match goalless.

The Red Miners finally broke the deadlock in the second minute of injury time through Sanan.

Assam Rifles failed to clear a corner and Sanan latched on to the loose ball and finished it past the goalkeeper to give Jamshedpur 1-0 lead.

Sanan doubled the lead in the 68th minute putting the finishing touches to a very good team move. Imran pulled a pass back into the box for the unmarked Sanan whose side footed finish found the net and the Kerala forward completed his double in the game. *—PTI*

Sanan Mohammed ***PHOTO: PTI***

BELGIAN GP

Russell holds off Hamilton for stunning win

BRUSSELS, 28 JULY

George Russell held off Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton to take a stunning victory from sixth on the grid in an engrossing Belgian Grand Prix.

Russell put in an extraordinary drive to run an unusual one-stop strategy in a race that featured battles throughout the leading places. He had to fend off a seven-time champion on tyres that were 15 laps fresher for five laps at the end off the race but pulled it off in impressive style, having called the strategy himself from the car.

Hamilton was closing in at nearly a second a lap in the final laps but, as so many other drivers found, overtaking was harder than expected and he could never quite get close enough to challenge. As Russell clung on in the final two or three laps, McLaren's Oscar Piastri closed in on Hamilton to set up a grandstand finish, and the three cars crossed the line nose to tail. Seven seconds behind them, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc - who had been passed by Piastri with nine laps to go around the outside of the Les Combes chicane - spent the closing laps fending off Red Bull's Max Verstappen and the second McLaren of Lando Norris.

The three spent the final four laps neck and neck but Leclerc managed to hold his rivals at bay. Behind Norris, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz passed Red Bull's Sergio Perez with five laps to go to raise further questions about Perez's future. *—BBC NEWS*

Mercede's George Russell celebrates after a thrilling finish ***PHOTO: X/@F1***